Wolverhampton
CHRONICLE

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Warehouse lifeline for axed tyre factory workers

JOBS JOY FOR GOODYEAR NINE

Report by Lewis Cox

NINE former Goodyear workers have been given a lifeline in the form of new jobs at a warehouse in Staffordshire.

The Wolverhampton workers, made redundant following Goodyear's announcement of closure, are the first of up to between 70-100 former tyre factory staff to be given new jobs by logistics company Wincanton.

The Stafford site at Junction 14 of the M6 is operated by Wincanton supply chain logistics company on behalf of Screwfix. The men will be employed by Wincanton, but work for Screwfix.

Wincanton representatives first met with a large number of the workforce at a recruitment fair, put on by Goodyear, last November.

Just the job for nine

Throughout last December around 70 former Goodyear employees had the opportunity to look around the Screwfix base just off junction 14 in Stafford, meeting staff and gaining an understanding of the company's profile.

Jason Tweedale, 49, of Sedgley, was one of the nine who landed a role. He said: "It was a long and difficult process at Goodyear. It's still difficult for the guys that are still there now. We've moved here with guys that we know and trust and have friendships with, it makes it a lot easier."

Important

Communications manager Gez Prendergast played a big part in bridging the gap between Wincanton and the potential employees. He said: "We've had some of the guys who already work here showing them around.

"We thought it important to have people who know what a day's work is like here."

Wincanton aim at targeting more of those to be made redundant at Goodyear throughout the remainder of 2016.

Nick Dulleston, who operates shifts at Wincanton, added: "One of the key things for us is that we're trying to get these people that have worked together for a long time together in the factory.

"As much as we were trying to make sure that they were right for us, the key thing was making sure that we were right for them."

£5K CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE WAR MEMORIAL

Looking up at the war memorial opposite St Phillip's Church in Bradmore are Katie Dunn, Phil Robinson and Evonne

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to restore a church monument to fallen soldiers from the First World War.

The memorial which stands opposite St Philip's Church, Bradmore, has the names of those from Penn Fields, Bradmore and Merry Hill who paid the supreme sacrifice, and is completed with a statue of an armed soldier.

Part of the rifle is gone, though, and now Phil Robinson, secretary of the Penn and District branch of the Royal British Legion, along with Katie Dunn and Evonne Wilson, is looking to raise £5,000 to restore the monument.

Mr Robinson, aged 77, who was born in Bradmore and has lived in the area for all of his life, said: "Discussing the soldier, I said we'd try and raise some funds.

"We went to a firm in Wales, they were a masons who do repairs on damaged cenotaphs and graves, and they gave us a quote for £5,000."

Mr Robinson's father, Thomas David Robinson, fought in the First World War, while his half-brothers, Roy and Ralf Thurman, served in the Second World War.

"I took this on because I respect what everyone did in the First and Second World War and I thought this was possibly my way of doing something for all of the local people," he said.

A message on the memorial reads: "This statue is erected as a lasting tribute to the men of Penn Fields Bradmore and Merry Hill who served his majesty's forces during the Great War 1914-1919. The names of those who paid the supreme sacrifice are engraved hereon."

Donations can be made at bradmoremorial@outlook.com.

APOLOGY

Wolves in pledge on statue shortfall

WOLVES have pledged to cover any shortfall in the Sir Jack Hayward statue fundraising campaign – and apologised for any confusion regarding the plans.

Supporters running the campaign for the £250,000 statue have met Wolves to discuss the project. Fans and the club confirmed Wolves will cover any shortfall.

Supporters can give as much or as little as they wish, with £10 the suggested donation as Sir Jack famously sold the club to Steve Morgan for a tenner.

● Fans' anger – page 3

DERELICT

Student flats plan for office block

A DERELICT former office block is set to be transformed into student accommodation under new plans.

Developers want to turn Phoenix House in Wolverhampton into 26 units for 44 students, made up of flats and studios. The building, in Red Lion Street, has been empty for eight years.

Documents submitted with the plans state: "The conversion will have only a positive impact upon the appearance and character of the building by ensuring it is fully renovated."

REGULATIONS

Tighter safety rules for Cosford air show

THE Cosford Air Show faces tighter safety regulations following the Shoreham disaster.

Measures include 'enhancing' the experience, skill and health that display pilots must demonstrate before being allowed in the air. The regulator has also toughened the safety checks that must be passed before organisers receive permission to hold an event.

Eleven people were killed when a Hawker Hunter jet crashed on to the A27 in West Sussex during the Shoreham air show on August 22, 2015. This year's Cosford show will take place on June 19.

INSIDE

Youth centre grant towards new home

PAGE 9

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CONTENTS

LETTERS	8
MEMORY LANE	14
AREA FOCUS	16
FAST TICKET	29
TV LISTINGS	32-34
PROPERTY	37
MOTORING	49
SPORT	62-64

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NHS chief 'did not back forced contract'

David Loughton

A HOSPITAL boss from Wolverhampton is one of 20 health trust chiefs who have distanced themselves from suggestions they agreed to a new junior doctors contract being imposed.

David Loughton, chief executive of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, spoke out after their names were attached to a letter Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt used to justify the decision.

The letter from chief negotiator Sir David Dalton advised the Government to do 'whatever it deems necessary' to break the deadlock with medics. Mr Hunt cited their support when announcing his decision to force through changes to pay and conditions. But around half of the chief executives named have said they did not agree to the contract being forced on medics, even though they backed the terms being offered by the Government.

David Loughton said: "I was one of the chief executives who worked with Sir David Dalton to try to find an agreeable solution to the current dispute. I share the disappointment of most people that an agreed settlement could not be achieved.

"We have an excellent track record of support for and reliance on junior doctors, and the junior doctors at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, like all staff who work here, will always have my support for the incredible work they do.

"I supported a letter that viewed the final package to be safe, fair and reasonable. I did not support imposition."

He added: "Seven-day working is always debated and here at RWT we have had seven day working for some considerable time. We were able to achieve this by employing 11 consultants who work across medical specialities."

The British Medical Association, which represents junior doctors, has vowed to fight the decision.

Baby Cain battles back to defy all the odds

HE was born at just 27 weeks and was so small he could fit in the palm of your hand but little Cain Highfield has defied all odds, proving to be one tough baby.

He was so poorly at one point that doctors weren't sure he would make it through the night.

He spent several months in hospital, and although he still has a long road to recovery, he is now home, much to the delight of his mother, who says he is doing 'amazingly well'.

Cain, now aged six months, was born weighing just 1lb 9oz, and it was feared that he was just hours from death after suffering several medical complications. He suffered a punctured wound in his throat, a bleed on the brain and breathing difficulties.

Stressed

But after 12 weeks in hospitals in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, he is now home with his relieved mother Zoe Highfield, and is getting bigger and stronger. He currently weighs 8lb.

Miss Highfield, from Bushbury, told of her fears during the first few months of Cain's life.

The 23-year-old said: "I was obviously getting really stressed during the birth so he was delivered by emergency c-section. He was so small, he would have fitted in the palm of your hand. He was probably the size of a small Lucozade bottle.

"He was only 1lb 9oz, he was tiny, and then there were just problems after problems. They had to drain his lung because his feeding tube punctured his gullet.

"Then he was transferred from New Cross Hospital to Birmingham Children's Hospital because he had a small bleed on the brain.

"He had been in hospital for five weeks but then his breathing got really bad. The doctor said that he wasn't sure if he would make it through the night and said call the family and get them there.

So relieved now – Cain was five weeks before his mother Zoe Highfield even got to hold him

"Luckily he perked up a few hours later and he's been fighting and fighting ever since.I stayed at the hospital with him, I didn't want to leave him, I really couldn't bear to."

Once Cain was strong enough, he was able to go home with his mother just in time for Christmas.

Miss Highfield said: "It was an amazing moment, I didn't think he was going to make it. It was five weeks before I even got to hold him.

"We didn't even know if he was going to be home in time for Christmas. It was the best present ever."

Cain is still small for his age, weighing 8lb, but is heading in the right direction.

She added: "At the moment he has chronic lung disease, and he's needing oxygen 24 hours a day.

"But we're building him up and getting him bigger.

"We're not sure how it'll affect him when he gets older, but we're hoping he can keep on improving and get himself to normal.

"He is doing amazingly well, I can't wait now to see him grow up."

Cain was born weighing just 1lb 9oz and spent months in hospital

Councillors oppose two of options for link road

PARISH councillors are objecting to two suggested routes for a new link road in South Staffordshire.

Essington Parish Council met to discuss the plans to create a new access road to the old Royal Ordnance Factory and the three route options.

Residents and the National Trust have raised concerns about the options which could see the new road built close to the historic Moseley Old Hall. Under the proposals, there would be a link road for the ROF Featherstone site which would cut across the fields south of Moseley Old Hall to create a link between Cat and Kittens Lane and the A460.

Bridge

Options A and B would see the link road off the Cannock Road and join Cat and Kittens Lane, while a third option would need a bridge across the West Coast Main Line and then join on to the Stafford Road.

Essington Parish Councillor David Clifft said the parish council is 'strongly objecting' to both routes A and B.

The objections include increase in traffic, impact on the Green Belt, inappropriate development in the green belt, impact on Moseley Old Hall and destruction of woodland. However, he said the parish council would support option C.

Councillor Clifft added: "The parish council concluded that both options would have a negative impact, however route B would be more disastrous to residents living on the Cannock Road cutting through precious green belt."

Tapping into city obesity battle

THOUSANDS of people are expected to take part in a walking 'game' in Wolverhampton as part of a move to cut obesity.

Players will register their movements by tapping radio-frequency identification cards on beat boxes around the city. The initiative has seen a rise of 18 per cent in physical activity rates in other areas where it has been trialled.

The programme is expected to attract up to 35,000 residents, including a high percentage of young people, in Wolverhampton.

An obesity action plan was launched by the city council last July. Research has shown that almost a third of Wolverhampton's population is inactive, considered to be part of the problem. An eight-week Beat The Street programme has been commissioned by the council.

Relatives urged to come forward

RELATIVES of a man who has recently passed away are being asked to get in touch with Wolverhampton council so that his funeral can be arranged. .

Geoffrey John Hughes, who lived in the Westcroft area of Wolverhampton, was 65. Contact 01902 555394

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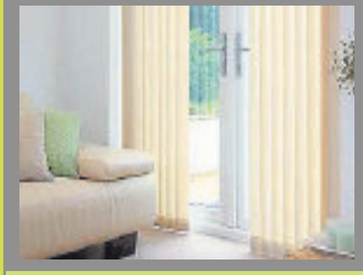

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Wolves see profit drop despite club promotion

WOLVES made a pre-tax profit of £700,000 on their return to Championship football last season – despite a big fall in turnover.

The club's annual turnover for 2014-2015 was down from £32.6 million to £26.4m even with promotion from League One the previous season and profit slumped from £8.4m.

This was down to the dramatic £8.9m drop in parachute payments after relegation from the Premier League in 2011-2012. The club did get a £1m increase in Football League funding.

Tickets

Profits were helped by the release of £6.7m that had been put to one side following restructuring after relegation from the Championship in 2012-2013.

Wolves' home league attendances for the season were up from 20,860 to 22,423 and season tickets sold rose from 11,817 in 2013-2014 to 13,998, as total net receipts from matches increased by £400,000 for the financial year to the end of May.

Commercial income, including sponsorship and advertising, also rose by £1.1m for the season as the team finished in seventh place, only missing out on a play-off place on goal difference.

The financial figures were first presented in an advance briefing for the Wolves Fans Parliament with chief executive Jez Moxey, chief financial officer Rita Purewal and club secretary Richard Skirrow.

Boots help for city homeless

HEALTH and beauty retailer Boots has stepped in to help Wolverhampton council support homeless people in the city.

There is a desperate need for non-perishable food and toiletries donations, according to council bosses.

Boots has offered its stores as donation points from which staff from Wolverhampton Homes will collect the products and distribute them to The Well Foodbank and The Good Shepherd Ministry charity. The donation points go live from February 15.

Area Manager for Boots UK in Wolverhampton, Gavin O'Hanlon, said: "It's often forgotten that individuals and families who aren't able to buy food, are also unlikely to be able to afford the basic hygiene products."

Tuning up for CD and record fair

A RECORD and CD fair is due to be held in Bilston. The Robin 2 will hold the event on Sunday.

It will run from 11am to 4pm and entry is £1. For more details go to www.therobin.co.uk

Fans angry over tenner statue request

Sir Jack Hayward

MANY Wolves' fans reacted angrily after being asked to fund a statue of Sir Jack Hayward to be erected outside Molineux – although some say they would be happy to contribute.

Wolves CEO Jez Moxey has said that the funding appeal for the statue came after fans approached the club.

He said: "What a brilliant way for our fans to say, 'I gave something back to him'.

"We're responding to fans' requests to help them with the fundraising campaign that they came to us with. There will be a statue of Sir Jack come what may. We are helping our fans, who came to us."

The 'tenner for Sir Jack' fundraising drive, launched last week, will see the club's supporters cover the £250,000 costs of the tribute to the popular owner who died last year. But many fans have questioned why the club is not funding the project itself. In a poll on the Express & Star website, 85 per cent of voters said Wolves were wrong to ask fans to pay for the statue.

More than 3,000 people voted on the poll. Posting on the Facebook page, David Ashmore said: "This has got to be a joke.

"I feel so sorry for Sir Jack and his family when they realise the club he loved won't put their hand in their pocket."

The announcement came the day after it was revealed current owner Steve Morgan's housebuilding company Redrow had returned record pre-tax profits and revenue in the six months to December – a fact not missed by supporters.

Others said they would be happy to contribute to the statue project.

Trevor Lloyd said: "I wouldn't mind paying a tenner towards it. It would be a wonderful tribute to a great man who has done a lot for the nation and his beloved Wolves."

The club wants to put the statue on the concourse overlooking the stadium.

'Gagging orders' land council with £7.8m bill

CASH-STRAPPED Wolverhampton council has spent almost £8 million of public money over the last five years buying the silence of departing staff members.

Since 2011/12 the authority has used public money to pay off 861 staff who have been either axed or taken redundancy, ensuring they do not discuss their work after they leave.

The agreements, widely used in both the public and private sectors, offer an increased severance package in return for staff agreeing to certain clauses.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that Wolverhampton council paid out £7,810,129 in so-called gagging orders over the last five years, including more than £1.8 million so far in the current financial year.

Shocked

It means the authority, battling to save a minimum of £134m by 2019, has spent more money on settlement agreements than 20 councils across Scotland over the same period.

Dia Chakravarty, political director at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Wolverhampton residents will be shocked that the council has spent millions of pounds to silence departing staff."

The figures have been branded as shocking by the TaxPayers' Alliance, who said use of the orders was 'against the principle of openness and transparency'.

In 2014/15, £4,627,672 was used from the public purse to pay off 652 staff, at an average of £7,100. In 2011/12, when several high earners left, more than £255,000 was splurged on just six staff members, an average of £42,500.

The council doled out £547,954.74 to 16 staff in 2012/13 and £533,064.98 to 22 staff the following year. In 2014/15 bosses brought in a policy that all staff taking voluntary redundancy must sign a settlement agreement.

Council bosses say the 'vast majority' of the figure represents redundancy payments that include an agreement that former staff can't be re-employed by the council for 12 months after leaving.

I Redundancy payouts – Page 24

So good – Ofsted praise for school

Thrilled – celebrating the report are, from left, headteacher Karen Elliot, school ambassadors Jack, Gurjat, Victoria and Maisie and Councillor Claire Darke

STAFF and pupils at a Wolverhampton school are celebrating after securing their best inspection rating for more than a decade.

Long Knowle Primary School, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, was judged to be 'good' following a visit by Ofsted last month. Inspectors praised the 'clear and ambitious' vision of the headteacher, senior leaders and governors which has led to 'marked improvements in teaching and pupils' achievement'.

The inspection took place at the 240-pupils school on January 19 and 20.

The school was rated 'good' in all areas, including the effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare, outcomes for pupils and early years provision. The school had been judged as requiring improvement at its last inspection.

Headteacher Karen Elliot said: "It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the whole staff team at Long Knowle and to the children and parents."

Education boss, Councillor Claire Darke, said: "I'm delighted that the hard work of the headteacher, her leadership team, the pupils and the governing board has been recognised."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Make taxi tests 'more stringent'

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition calling on Wolverhampton council to make passing 'stringent' tests a condition of qualifying for a cab licence.

Wolverhampton Private Hire Drivers Group has joined campaigners who have raised safety concerns over 'falling standards' since the city council changed the way drivers need to qualify for a taxi badge. They now have only to pass a one-day course.

It states drivers should have held a DVLA licence for a minimum 12 months before applying for a licence.

Camera to aid vice crackdown

A DOME hawk camera has been put in place in a bid to deter prostitution and kerb crawling.

Police in the Park neighbourhood of Wolverhampton are taking action following complaints in the Newhampton Road and West Park areas.

Sergeant Kevin Whitehouse said: "Eight prostitute cautions were given in January and four kerb crawlers referred to the 'change' course.

"We will continue to conduct both high-visibility and plain clothed patrols targeting sex workers and kerb crawlers in the areas."

Chance to share advice on careers

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce will be holding a careers fair at a Willenhall school next week.

The Your Future Careers Fair event will take place on Tuesday from 11am to 3pm at Willenhall E-Act Academy.

The event is free for businesses to exhibit and is an opportunity to engage with the next generation.

Any businesses that would like to get involved should contact Catrin Guy on 01902 912305 or email yourfuture@blackcountrychamber.co.uk

Special Melody for nightclub event

A FORMER member of the Pussycat Dolls will be performing at a popular Wolverhampton nightclub next week.

Melody Thornton will perform some of the group's biggest hits and meet fans at Popworld on February 26.

The American girl group were led by Nicole Scherzinger, and topped the UK charts with smash hit Don't Cha before disbanding in 2010. Popworld is offering fans a VIP meet and greet with Melody after her performance.

Tickets are priced from £3.

Link road will be closed

THE link road between the M6 and M54 will be shut to northbound traffic for work to improve the junction.

It will take place at Junction 10a, Essington, for five nights between 10pm and 6am, from March 7. A diversion will be in place via Junction 11 of the M6, Cannock.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THAT awkward moment on Crimewatch when a mugshot of a criminal bore a striking resemblance to presenter Jason Mohammed, takes me back to the 1970s when I was working Oop North. A handbag snatcher struck. His shocked victim, who barely saw the robber, said he looked a bit like a sports reporter on the local paper, whose byline photo appeared in every edition. The cops went to the newspaper office and took away the bewildered, and blameless, hack for questioning.

MORE things we believed in childhood. A reader writes: "As a youngster who had to attend Sunday School, I could never understand how Jesus was born on December 25 and died at Easter but managed to become a man and perform countless miracles in three or four months." And a lady who grew up in the 1950s recalls: "I believed you got pregnant by sitting in the back row of the cinema. I turned down many dates as a consequence until I eventually found out the truth."

ACCORDING to some reports, holiday bookings to Turkey are down 40 per cent because British trippers are scared of terrorist attacks. Well, that's one explanation. Another is that we have seen the world's biggest and most brutal people-smuggling operation grow and thrive under the eyes of the Turkish authorities, threatening our borders and littering the Mediterranean beaches with drowned children. Does Turkey deserve our custom?

A 44-year-old stalker who pestered the One Show presenter Alex Jones turned up at court wearing a back-to-front baseball cap. He was served with a restraining order. Come to think of it, if every male over 40 who wears a baseball cap the wrong way around were held under house arrest, wouldn't the world be a happier place?

SPARE us the attempted posthumous conversion of Terry Wogan. He was a declared lifelong atheist. Yet some want to turn the Godless Wogan into something else. Their argument goes: Terry was a good man, therefore he was close to God. The idea that an atheist might be a good person doesn't even enter their thinking. Wogan saw the real, unfair world, including the nastier side of Catholicism, and drew his own conclusions: no God, no Heaven, no Hell, just the eternal goodness of humanity. Wogan was a good atheist and his views should be respected, not turned upside-down by the God-botherers.

THEY are not cardboard, metal, textile or paper. They are not compostable and they aren't electrical goods. So how do I recycle my old hot-water bottle?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

JLR sales rise, but profits are down

JAGUAR Land Rover is selling more cars but it's not making as much money, new figures reveal.

While sales in the last three months of 2015 were up by nearly a quarter, revenue and profit figures were both down.

The company sold 137,653 vehicles in the third quarter of its financial year, an overall rise of 23 per cent, with Jaguar – boosted by its XE 'Baby Jag' saloon with its Wolverhampton-made Ingenium diesel engines – up 30 per cent and Land Rover up 22 per cent.

Its revenue figure, however, slipped by two per cent compared to the same time a year ago, to £5.8 billion. Pre-tax profit was down to £499 million, from £685 million a year ago, even after a £30 million initial insurance payout for the thousands of Jaguars, Land Rovers and Range Rovers wrecked in last year's China's Tianjin Port explosion.

But the profit is still an improvement on the loss for the previous three months, when the West Midlands-based car maker had to take into account a potential £245m hit from the port disaster.

JLR chief executive Ralf Speth said: "We have reported solid revenues and profits in our latest financial quarter, reflecting very positive customer demand for our new and refreshed line-up of vehicles.

"With announcements of our plans to build a plant in Slovakia and double capacity at our UK Engine Manufacturing Centre, we have continued to invest for the long term. "Jaguar Land Rover remains well positioned to deliver sustained profitability."

'Left-out' councils hit at allocation of cash

By Peter Madeley

LOCAL government will receive £300 million to ease funding cuts to central government grants – but cash-strapped local authorities in the Black Country won't get a penny.

Communities secretary Greg Clark has announced a £150m support scheme for councils in each of the next two years in response to concerns over changes to funding calculations.

But none of the four local authorities in the Black Country will receive any of the transitional money - sparking fury among council bosses.

Tory-run Staffordshire County Council will receive additional funding of £5.56m over two years.

The announcement came after the conclusion of the consultation on the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement.

Deprived

Critics say the new relief fund will overwhelmingly help Conservative areas, including the Prime Minister's own Oxfordshire council which is set to get £9m over two years.

Wolverhampton council's finance chief, Councillor Andrew Johnson, said the settlement 'reemphasised the unfairness' of how the grant was calculated.

"It is outrageous," he said. "Richer areas in the South East, mainly Tory councils I might add, have had fewer cuts yet some of them are getting extra money. It just adds insult to injury."

Wolverhampton council is set to receive £12.2m less in central government funding than it did in 2015/16. The authority is battling to save a minimum of £134m by 2019.

The five most deprived councils in the country – Middlesbrough, Knowsley, Hull, Liverpool and Manchester – will receive nothing under the grant.

The biggest beneficiary will be Surrey, which will get £24m

Squat a weighty way to aid charity

Craig Timmins and David Gray at gym in Wolverhampton to complete 500 each body weight box squats

WORLD powerlifting champion David Gray took on a different kind of challenge when he decided to raise money for charity.

The Wolverhampton strongman succeeded in completing 1,000 bodyweight box squats in tandem with Walsall fitness instructor Craig Timmins.

The pair were inspired to put their bodies through the mill to raise money for Cancer Research in memory of a former colleague who died from the disease last year.

Sue Winter, a maths teacher at Midpoint Centre Pupil Referral Unit, Wolverhampton, passed away in the summer holidays. Now the school has planned a year of fundraising in her name.

David, of Wednesfield, a design and technology teacher at the school, became world champion in Finland last June – smashing six world records in the process.

But he said: "Doing repetitions is very different from the competition work I do. My knee joints were really feeling it at the end. I had to soak in a long bath afterwards."

Friends

He and Bloxwich-based Craig, a sports teacher at the Orchard Centre on the same campus, performed 500 squats each, lifting weights of up to 80kgs, over two and a half hours. He holds the world title in the Masters 66kg category. Fellow teachers and friends turned up at the Muscle Masters Gym to cheer them on.

Skills help city project proves to be just the job

ALMOST 3,000 residents have been supported by a project aimed at helping people become more 'job ready' and find work.

Wolverhampton's Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Service was set up in November 2011 as a £2 million project funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Of the residents supported 58 per cent were out of work for more than 12 months when they first sought support from the service and 11 per cent of those have found a job. Of people out of work for less than 12 months before receiving support, 23 per cent have found a job.

Valuable

The council's city economy boss, Councillor John Reynolds, said: "NESS has been recognised as a valuable resource to the city and has helped improve opportunities for people looking to develop new skills and also seek employment or volunteering opportunities.

"Many clients have a range of issues that may prevent them from securing employment. These can include a lack of confidence, low aspirations, poor self-esteem and the lack of basic skills they need to even get to the interview stage.

"The NESS project has proved to be effective in addressing these issues."

The project was due to end in July 2014 but due to its success it received further ERDF funding and continued until December 2015.

Gill meat firm returns to profit

WOLVERHAMPTON'S family meat products business F A Gill returned to profit in its last financial year.

The company, which has its head office at Parkfields, Wolverhampton, and sites in Bilston and Dudley made a pre-tax profit of £202,058 for the year to the end of September on turnover of £34.7 million. It compared to a loss of £394,824 for 2013-2014.

It was founded in 1938 and produces ham, cooked meats, sausages and retail packs of pork.

Director Charles Gill said the year saw pig prices recede from historically high levels, but there was still a disparity between UK and pig prices in other European companies.

"Our plan for 2016 and the years ahead is to keep promoting British pork," he said.

Methodist church is to hold spring fair

BILSTON Methodist Church and Community Centre is due to hold its spring fair on Saturday, February 27 at the church in Bow Street from 11am until 1pm.

There will be a variety of stalls and refreshments will be available.

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M6 Toll up for sale as banks owed £1.9 billion

THE M6 Toll is being put up for sale by the banks that own it in a bid to get back the £1.9 billion they are owed.

They believe that the recent improving performance of the UK's only private motorway could make it a good time to sell. The move could put nationalisation of the road back on the table.

Just two months ago South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson asked roads minister Andrew Jones to explore taking the toll road into state ownership.

But David Frost, chairman of the Staffordshire and Stoke Local Enterprise Partnership, urged caution: "If it was nationalised, where would the money come from? If it was from the transport budget, that would mean money not being spent elsewhere.

Improving

In the financial figures, for 2014, toll operating company Midland Expressway cut its losses to £28.6 million, from £32.5m the year before. Traffic numbers have been improving.

This has been put down to the UK's improving economy and drivers looking for an alternative to roadworks clogging the main M6.

The toll road, which currently charges cars £5.50 and lorries up to £11, has never reached the 75,000 vehicles a day predicted when it was first opened in 2003. But the daily average has now risen to nearly 48,000 a day, with 17.4m vehicles using the road during 2015.

Child porn lorry driver is jailed

A WOLVERHAMPTON lorry driver caught with a stash of child porn is starting a 16-month jail sentence.

Police raided the home of Trevor Finnikin, 42, and found more than 120 indecent films of children as young as six on computer equipment. Officers also discovered a small number of stills and file sharing equipment, said Mr Edward Soulsby prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said: ""He has started his journey to recovery and rehabilitation."

Finnikin of Shaw Road, Bushbury admitted eight charges of making indecent images of children. He was put on the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years and is the subject of an indefinite Sexual Harm Protection Order.

A little bit of Devon at Bilston

MUSICIAN Devon Allman and his band will play Bilston's Robin 2 on February 29 as part of a UK tour.

Tickets are £12.50 in advance or £15 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or book online at www.therobin.co.uk

Family of boy in blood donor appeal

Treatment – Joshua Grabic

THE family of a six-year-old boy who suffers from leukaemia is appealing for people to register as blood donors to help save his and other children's lives.

Joshua Grabic, from Perton, Wolverhampton, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in November 2015. He had been experiencing flu-like symptoms, pain in his legs that left him unable to walk and ongoing tiredness.

Parents and doctors had initially thought Joshua had a viral infection. Blood tests revealed the extent of his illness and that he was severely anaemic.

Mother Rhian, 32, said: "When Joshua was first diagnosed he was so pale, and he could hardly move. When he got the blood transfusion his colour came back."

Rhian, who is a support worker for Mencap, had a blood transfusion herself, when Joshua was born, having two or three units for a haemorrhage.

Joshua has so far had four blood transfusions, one platelet transfusion and is likely to need more in the future. The cancer not only effects Joshua's blood, but chemotherapy has the side effect of damaging bone marrow, which is where blood is produced.

"Most of his hair has fallen out and he has been sick a few times, and he struggles with mobility," said Rhian, "But he is doing so well and he has always got a smile."

Joshua is currently on steroids and undergoing maintenance chemotherapy after completing his first lot of intensive chemotherapy.

To find out how to become a donor call 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk

Discount store plan part of retail park revamp

A DECAYING retail park on one of Wolverhampton's busiest gateways will be handed a new lease of life under ambitious new plans.

The Peel Centre, in Stafford Street, was devastated by a blaze in 2011 and just one firm, United Carpets and Beds, has continued to trade.

But now the owners have unveiled plans to remodel the site and reoccupy the empty units, creating 88 jobs. Under the proposals, the carpet retailer would be replaced by discount store Home Bargains, which has a deal in place to take ownership of the building.

Supermarket chains Lidl, Aldi and Netto have been identified as ideal tenants elsewhere at the retail park.

Site owners, The Peel Group, has been considering how to redevelop the site after plans for a £20 million supermarket fell through since the blaze.

Prominent

Roger Wheeldon, director of development at Peel, said: "Our agreement with Home Bargains will see the full refurbishment of the ex-Focus unit and its reoccupation by this successful national retailer in a large unit selling a wide range of food and non food products.

"It will create many new jobs and is a great first stage of the redevelopment of this prominent retail park. We hope to announce plans for the rest of the retail park and our other vacant properties on Stafford Street shortly."

Peel's deal with Home Bargains will see the retailer refurbish the entire unit once occupied by DIY chain Focus. It depends on Wolverhampton council relaxing restrictions on what can be sold from the site, for which a planning application has been submitted. If it goes ahead, Peel expect Home Bargains to be open to customers by late spring with the store creating around 70 jobs.

The Manchester-based owners also confirmed it is in discussion with 'another party' wanting to buy the remainder of the retail park and for it to be occupied by a supermarket chain.

There are currently no plans for the unit formerly occupied by JJB Sports. United Carpets and Beds, the sole existing tenants, confirmed it had been asked to vacate the site by April 8 but was hoping to relocate within the city.

Franchisee Norrie Mackie, said: "We're on the lookout for a great new venue, and we think we have spotted the right place."

Furniture Warehouse was completely destroyed in the 2011 fire, which was started by arsonists.

Derelict – the Peel Centre, in Stafford Street, was devastated by a blaze in 2011

Pervert jailed for breaching order

A PERVERT banned from having contact with children has been jailed for three years and four months after he began a relationship with an unsuspecting woman who had a five-year-old daughter.

It was the seventh time Lee Rogers had broken the terms of his Sexual Harm Protection Order, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said the 22-year-old had several previous convictions which included a sexual assault on a small boy and possession of indecent images of children.

Rogers of no fixed address admitted breaching his Protection Order and also breaking the conditions of a 12-month suspended prison sentence for an earlier breach of the order.

Recorder Tracey Lloyd-Nesling told him: "You have no intention of allowing the requirements preventing you from doing what you want to do. You deliberately wormed your way into the home of this woman who had a small child. Your previous convictions seriously aggravate this case."

The Wolverhampton mother had not left him alone with her child during the relationship.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crackdown on illegal tobacco

A CRACKDOWN on the sale of potentially lethal illegal tobacco has been launched with a roadshow visiting various areas in the wake of a series of raids on shops in Wolverhampton.

West Midlands Police's Illegal Tobacco Unit has been visiting premises across the city to educate people about the dangers.

Trading standards and public health officers have been out speaking to the public during a roadshow event which visited Sainsbury's in Wednesfield, Morrisons in Bilston and the city centre.

Applications fly in for food festival

APPLICATIONS are flying in for the Cosford Food Festival with a bumper number of exhibitors signed up.

Thousands of foodies are set to visit the event on July 23 and 24 and this year has already seen an increase in applications compared to previous years.

The event runs from 10am to 5pm on both days and entry is £5 for adults, £4 for senior citizens, £2 for children and £12 for a family ticket.

The closing date for exhibitor applications is March 31. Book on whatson-cosford@rafmuseum.org

RSPCA plea on 'senior kittizens'

THE RSPCA is appealing for homes for three of their oldest cats as they are often left behind by potential owners who look for kittens.

The 'senior kittizens' as they are known by staff at the RSPCA's Stafford, Wolverhampton and District branch, are Argo, aged 12, Toffee, 11, and Fudge,13.

Anyone interested should contact the branch on 07715 540206 or email rehoming@rspca-staffordwolverhampton.org.uk

Lion's Roar ale backs England Euros bid

A WOLVERHAMPTON brewery is producing a special beer to get behind England's European Football Championship campaign this summer.

Lion's Roar is being brewed at the Victorian Banks's Park Brewery in Brewery Road.

The 3.8 per cent golden English ale will be on sale in Banks's pubs and as a guest ale across the West Midlands in June and July when fans will be watching the national team's matches on TV.

MP welcomes shop

MP Emma Reynolds has welcomed the opening of a city charity shop dedicated to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East visited the LGBT store on School Street and wished them success in their fundraising.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Expensive hush while day centre is suffering

NOBODY who has followed the fortunes of Wolverhampton Council for the past few years can be unaware of the massive cuts to services the authority has been imposing.

Looking at the bigger picture, £146 million worth of savings over the next three years seems hard to comprehend. But it is the smaller stuff which really makes a difference. Take, for example, the Columba Day Centre which cares for people suffering from dementia. It used to be funded by the council, but now faces possible closure unless £150,000 can be raised.

It is in this context that we learn Wolverhampton Council has spent nearly £8m of public money over the last five years buying the silence of departing staff. Yes, that's right. Since 2011/2, the cash-strapped council has spent almost £8m on ensuring people do not talk publicly about their work or the reasons why they have left.

In the past eight months alone, while the authority has been busy warning us about draconian cuts it has spent £1.8m on clauses to keep people quiet. What beans they thought their former staff were going to spill, we will probably never know. But one can only assume that some of it was not going to be entirely positive.

Perhaps £8m does not seem a great amount of money to an organisation handling hundreds of millions of pounds, but it would keep the Columba Day Centre, and dozens of other small, local services, for that matter, running for a good few years. Silence is golden, so the saying goes. And very expensive, by the sound of things.

❒❒❒

NEARLY 50,000 people have signed a petition calling for the north of England, from Liverpool, Sheffield and Hull upwards, to join with Scotland in a new independent state.

Actually, I use the term petition loosely. It is another one of these Change.org online campaigns, where busybody activists spend their days furiously tapping away at their computer screens believing they can change the world through a website.

Still it raises an interesting question about how relevant the values of Westminster are to the rest of the UK, although I fear they have missed the point slightly.

There is not so much a north-south divide in modern Britain, but a chasm between London and the rest of Britain. The answer is surely not for the north of England to join with Scotland, but for London – or Islington, Camden and Notting Hill at the very least – to be declared an independent principality like Monaco.

Let them worry about tofu, diversity and cycle lanes, and the rest of us will create a new capital city for the rest of Britain. Somewhere central. In the Black Country maybe?

Soundtrack specialist Clint works through an idea on guitar

At work on the piano, movie music master Clint Mansell

In his hellraiser days, Clint fronts the band Pop Will Eat Itself

Dark times gave Clint fuel for his creativity

From the Black Country to New York and Hollywood... soundtrack writer Clint Mansell talks to **ANDY RICHARDSON**

HIS accent hasn't changed a bit. Clint Mansell may have become one of Hollywood's most important and successful soundtrack writers and been nominated for an Oscar but he still sounds like the same guy who used to drink at The Mitre in Stourbridge, back in the day.

The former dreadlocked-hell-raiser of The Stourbridge Scene, who led Pop Will Eat Itself into the charts during 10 inglorious years, has not developed any airs and graces. There are no delusions of grandeur, no ideas above his station. He's the same humble and intensely creative man that he ever was.

"Y'alright, man," he says, down the line from Los Angeles. He's in poor shape today, he's only had about four hours sleep. "I've got this right stinking cold. I can't shift it. I've had it for four months."

Charts

Clint's story is one of the most remarkable in the West Midlands. He formed PWEI and gatecrashed the charts on a wave of sample-driven, industrial indie rock. Get The Girl! Kill The Baddies! hit the top 10 while X Y & Zee, Dance Of The Mad, Touched by the Hand of Cicciolina and RSVP weren't far behind. But it was tunes like Beaver Patrol, Def. Con. One., Can U Dig It? and Wise Up! Sucker that cemented their status as cult heroes. They paved the way for The Wonder Stuff, Ned's Atomic Dustbin and a plethora of others.

"I still come back to Stourbridge," he says. "I see my parents there three or four times a year. That whole scene was good to me. We had the best time.

"I remember signing on on a Wednesday and the van would be waiting around the corner to take us out of town and do a gig somewhere for £50. We weren't The Rolling Stones.

The Wrestler, Black Swan, Noah and Moon are among Clint Mansell's acclaimed film scores

We were renting vans from Value Van Hire at Brierley Hill then hitting the road in search of a good time."

Clint and bandmate Graham Crabb wrote most of the Poppies tunes until the band split in 1996.

"We'd been doing that for 10 years and Adam, Graham, Richard, Fuzz and myself had been together as friends for the best part of 15 years. We were all very much at a loss. The band sort of becomes your identity. I imagine it's similar to anyone who's been made redundant. You identify yourself through the things that you do. It took me at least three or four years to get back on my feet."

Clint went to New York. "I was lost, really. I was pretty broke as well. Suddenly you go from being in a successful band to not doing a great deal. The thing that kept me going must have been some kind of delusion. I was 33, I had no experience of anything other than writing songs. I just wanted to give it a shot in New York.

"If it hadn't have worked out I'd just have gone back to Stourbridge to do whatever I would have been doing. Sometimes you have to chance. Don't get me wrong, it's been a lot of hard work. I've done 60 film scores.

"But without having taken that risk I'd never have gotten here. I'd missed the train to settle down and have kids. There were no other options."

In New York, Clint hooked up with the film director Darren Aronofsky, a Harvard University alumni who has subsequently been nominated for an Oscar and created such films as The Wrestler, the 300 million-dollar-grossing Black Swan and the 350 million-dollar-grossing Noah.

"Back in the day, with the band, I'd pay my dues by playing JB's in Dudley, or The Hummingbird in Birmingham. When I started writing film scores, it was the same. At first, I was totally out of my depth. But I learnt a lot. After I'd done 10 or 12 films, I felt like I was getting the hang of it.

"It was very fortuitous to meet Darren. It changed the course of both of our lives. It turned out that our sensibilities matched up. Because he delves into the dark side, if you like.

Liberating

"For me, there were a lot of dark times during that transition from PWEI to being a film score writer. But those dark times gave me fuel."

Clint's moody and elegiac music dovetailed perfectly with Darren's films.

"It was totally different from being in the band. Then, we'd write songs for ourselves. We'd write about anything we liked. But when you write for a film you have to serve the film and go with the director's wishes. But in a weird way, that's very liberating."

Clint scored Darren's debut film, Pi, and was retained to score the next, Requiem For A Dream, which featured the composition Lux Aeterna. The piece has been used in film and trailers while a version was re-orchestrated for choir and full orchestra on The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers. Not bad for a fella from Stourbridge who used to spend most of his time drunk.

There have been more successes, most notably the scores to The Fountain, Smokin' Aces, The Wrestler, Black Swan and Moon. Clint's work is ubiquitous; featuring on Top Gear, Lost, The Da Vinci Code and in computer games.

"I've been very fortunate that I've been able to do what I've wanted while putting some bread on the table. I know I'm not right for every other film. It has to speak to me. It has to draw on something that's within me because I feel then that I can bring something to the table."

Uneasy Listening: An Evening With Clint Mansell plus special guests is at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on March 23. Tickets, priced £22.50 or £27.50, are available at www.thsh.co.uk or from the box office on 0121 780 4949.

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Debt-ridden robber saw cash go up in smoke

A CASH-STRAPPED gambler with £4,000 debts backed another loser when he raided a bookies, a judge was told.

Thomas McNally got his fingers burned as his haul went up in smoke, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 23-year-old accidentally set light to the money while torching clothes he had worn as he struck at Ladbrokes in Bushbury Road, Bushbury, armed with a knife at 8.15pm on December 18.

He waited until the shop was empty with only one female member of staff on the premises, said Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

Thomas McNally

The lawyer continued: "He handed over a bag and ordered the woman to put money into it. The knife was clearly visible. She managed to press an alarm hanging round her neck and left it on so that security staff could hear what was happening."

McNally escaped with £910 but phoned police the following day to admit what he had done, the court heard. Mr Spratt revealed: "Officers went to his address and he asserted that it had not been a real knife. He also said he had burned both his clothes and the money, the latter in error. He explained that he had been drinking all day and was in significant debt."

Miss Aimee Parkes, defending, declared: " He did have a knife but claims the blade was plastic. He owed £4,000 after his gambling got out of control and was also under pressure to buy Christmas presents for his two children."

McNally from Leacroft Avenue, Low Hill admitted robbery and was jailed for two years eight months.

Teenagers' charity trek

Jordan Dugmore and Brad Smith at the Tettenhall clock which is where there charity cycle challenge will end

TWO friends are cycling from Carlisle to their home city of Wolverhampton to raise money for a cancer charity.

Brad Smith and Jordan Dugmore have both lost relatives to the disease and wanted 'to give something back.' The pair, former pupils of St Peter's Collegiate School in Wolverhampton, are keen fitness fans and decided to put their bodies to the test as part of their fundraising.

Brad, 19, from Tettenhall, has been inspired to raise money in memory of his nan, Ruth Bate, who died from cancer five years ago. Three years later the disease also took the life of his former neighbour Tony Hill, who he said was 'like a grandfather to me.' Jordan, 19, from Lanesfield, also lost his grandmother just before Christmas.

Jordan, also 19, of Lanesfield, mapped the route which will leave Carlisle for Lancaster on day one, head to Liverpool on day two, and arrive in Tettenhall on the final day.

The pair have set up a Just Giving page which so far stands at £130. They hope to have raised much more by the July start date.

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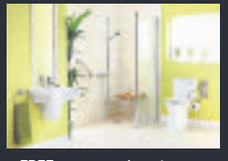

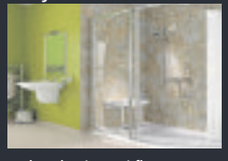

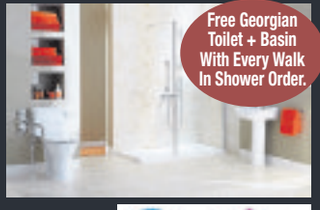

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Litter sound bites are just rubbish

FUNNY how sound bites from the government trumpeting crackdowns on whatever is flavour of the month usually end up having no effect or making the situation worse.

Take litter and the recent sound bite about increasing penalties for dropping it and flytipping. That sounds good until you realise that there is likely to be no witness or anyone to prosecute.

I remember Gordon Brown saying he would make the driver responsible for litter thrown from cars. Look down Tettenhall Road and other main corridors into Wolverhampton. There is litter everywhere, most of it alcohol related dropped by pedestrians and thrown out of cars and worse than ever. It is like anti-social behaviour, we raised the threshhold of tolerance and accept it.

There are other sound bites where the same applies. If you live in the Westminster bubble, you can believe anything is working with a few clever catchphrases.

M CRUMP
Wolverhampton

Road is now more a hazard

WITH reference to the 'traffic calming' measures on Wightwick Bank.

I find the exercise totally laughable that so-called intelligent people think up a project involving speed bumps on a hill that is barely two cars wide through most of its length requiring car, van and in some instances lorry drivers to negotiate suspension breaking 'lumps' whilst avoiding knocking off each other's mirrors.

They have succeeded in creating more hazards than were there before and by introducing these distractions have made the process of driving up and down the bank more dangerous.

D BIDDLE
Codsall

Giving out more than we get back

WATCHING the local news something item caught my ear. A woman, something to do with Ironbridge Gorge Museum, was saying that she would definitely vote to stay in the European Union because the museum had been 'saved' by almost £4m of EU money.

But what they are doing, and I am confident after doing my research, that these figures are correct, is giving us back less than 30 per cent of what we pay into the EU budget.

Our gross contributions to the EU, in 2013, were £17bn, of which they kept £10.8bn, so we got back £6.2bn. Anyone who is in receipt of any of this money must also display a large 'funded by the European Union' sign and can be fined for not doing so.

This is solely to make us think that the project would not have been possible without said money.

Just think what we could do if we had all of that £17bn to spend as we wanted, how many potholes would that fill?

I SMITH
Penn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Wolverhampton Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
wolverhampton.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

EU sales lag behind exports

IT is clear why Europhiles keep on scaremongering – every day more reasons emerge why Britain should leave the EU.

New figures show that for the second consecutive year our sales to EU countries lagged behind exports to the rest of the world. I have always pointed out that Britain buys more from the EU than they do from us.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show the EU accounted for just 47 per cent of British exports last year, compared to 62 per cent in 2006.

Official figures include goods shipped via European ports to countries outside the EU; without this so-called 'Rotterdam Effect' distortion they would be even lower.

The gap between EU and non-EU exports has grown from £1.7bn in 2014 to £17bn last year. Every set of trade figures reveal that the EU is declining in importance to our economy and is a failing trading bloc.

Free from the shackles of Brussels we can make our own trade deals.

JAMES CARVER
West Midlands MEP

City snub is not justified

THERE are lies, damn lies and statistics, so the old saying goes. Here is a new saying, in fact, only a minute old! 'Call a Wolverine a glutton and he will soon bite you.'

You can guess what I am referring to of course! Another snub from down south by some group belittling Wolverhampton.

It is a good job most of us are not miserable as we could feel really hurt. In fact the small minority who are miserable would be too lazy to write in.

Just after the last war, up to about 1960, all the male population were liable to do national service in one of the armed services.

After three months initial training, the hardest time, we got two weeks leave. Me being born and bred in Wolverhampton came home on holiday.

Now thinking about it, it was the best holiday of my life. Yes, in Wolverhampton, no place like home.

You do not appreciate what you have until it is gone.

G GRIFFITHS
Bilbrook

It's time for Cameron to give us what WE want on the EU

MR Cameron, Prime Minister, says he has 'stitched up deal for Britain' according to the headline in the media.

Let's look at what he has achieved then. We will apparently have a veto on new EU laws. Sounds great that. Except we need at least 14 other members of the EU! Wow! What an achievement. Not!

The EU may be a fine thing, except for the facts.

We lose control over our borders, we have to follow their diktats on our laws and operating our country. Sorry but it isn't a 'great' deal for us.

It's just more 'parliamentary inexactitudes (what normal people call lies?) being told us.

We've been fed a diet of 'stories' over the last few months saying how much we need to be part of the EU.

Well here's a truth for you. The EU needs us more than we need it. A great deal of their budget comes from us so effectively we are keeping their 'boat' afloat. The other members of the EU trade with us a great deal. They cannot afford to let that market be hindered by artificial barriers being put up between us.

If we 'walked away' after a no vote from us there would be a trade agreement put into place at almost the speed of light.

Come on Mr Cameron, you're supposed to be our Prime Minister not the EU representative here.

You're supposed to care about us and if that involves 'upsetting' the rest of the EU then do it. The people who elected you deserve better and it's up to you to give us what we want.

You, personally, may want us to stay in the EU but you're representing all of us, not just yourself.

Perhaps our MPs should remind him of this.

M GOUGH
Wombourne

Charity aid needed here

THIS is an open letter to the Right Honourable David Cameron MP.

For a number of years I have had the privilege of being chairman of the local friendship club here in Perton (OAPs).

Our members meet each Wednesday for bingo and a chat. During our tea break we have a small collection and this is donated to the Air Ambulance.

Like many charities they do not get funding from central government. Can you explain why you can send £250m on foreign aid (which is our taxes) but you will not support British charities. As a young lad I was always told charity begins at home.

M LAW
Wolverhampton

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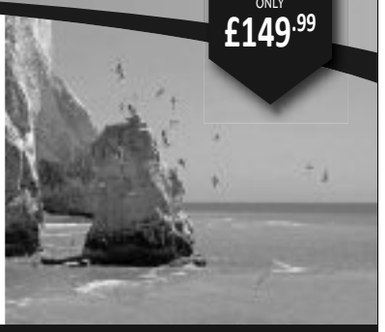

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Delight as youth theatre lands grant of £384,000

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Central Youth Theatre has landed a £384,000 grant to help fund its new home in the heart of the city.

Bosses at the company hailed the 'amazing' news after it was revealed a bid for Arts Council funding had been successful.

The money will be used to transform the former Co-operative store building on Lichfield Street into a permanent home for the company.

Director Jane Ward said: "This has been the most amazing news. Although this money has been awarded by the Arts Council, it is a tribute to all those who have donated money to our original campaign to make the former Co-operative building our permanent home.

"This is going to be a fantastic facility for young people for many years to come and young people will be at the forefront of helping to re-generate Wolverhampton city centre."

Under the £500,000 project, the company will move into the former O'Neill's bar located in the former Co-operative building, giving them a prime spot opposite the Grand Theatre.

Central Youth Theatre is to take over the old O'Neills

Sewing room image

They had originally planned to move into part of the former Co-Operative store above the Moon Under Water, which is next door to O'Neill's.

But the company snapped up the chance for more prominent ground-floor accommodation in the former Irish bar instead.

Artist impressions of the scheme show how the new site will transform the street.

Large windows will give shoppers a glimpse behind the scenes of rehearsals and costumes as they walk past the Lichfield Street venue while plans

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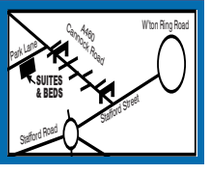

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Illegal petrol fraudsters evaded nearly £1m in tax

A GANG evaded almost £1million in taxes while operating an illegal petrol station in an 'organised fraud' from an industrial estate in the Black Country.

Frank Daley, his son Jacob O'Callaghan and Danny Williams, all from Wolverhampton, sold 1.2 million litres of kerosene as fuel from the site in Willenhall over a five-year period.

They were jailed for a combined total of more than six years at Stafford Crown Court last week.

The fraud came to light when police officers stopped O'Callaghan in a van containing 1,000 litres of kerosene, normally used as home heating oil.

Daley, aged 54, of Tudor Road, Heath Town, first began the illegal business from unit 16 off Phoenix Road in 2009.

Five and a half years – Francis Daly

10 months' jail – Jacob O'Callaghan

Tanks which were used for fuel at the illegal filling station by the fraudsters

Evasion

The court heard how Daley, described as the lynchpin of the operation, avoided paying £769,122 in fuel duty and £177,236 in VAT.

He was sentenced to five and a half years for fraudulent evasion of excise duty and four-and-a-half years to run concurrent for avoiding VAT following a trial.

O'Callaghan, aged 26, of Fitzmaurice Road, Ashmore Park, was described by Judge Jonathan Gosling during the sentencing as an industrious worker who had served in the Army for two years.

But he was sentenced to 10 months in prison for his two-year involvement in the conspiracy after admitting the same offences, which saw him avoid paying £377,516 in duty and £87,146 in VAT. Williams, aged 23, of Hampton Road, Oxley, had been part of the scam for five months.

He had already pleaded guilty of a single charge of fraudulent evasion of excise duty for avoiding £126,151 and was given a six month sentence, suspended for 12 months.

Mr Peter McCartney, prosecuting, said: "Mr Daly ordered fuel from various legitimate suppliers using his own name and mobile number, as well as fictitious names and addresses when he received deliveries. From early 2011 he went by the name 'John'.

"By 2013 Jacob O'Callaghan was receiving deliveries to an address used by himself, which was then transferred to unit 16 in Phoenix Road."

The court heard how HM Revenues and Customs became involved in May 2014 and installed cameras around unit 16, which showed a constant stream of vehicles coming into the unit throughout the day.

Revenue officers raided the premises on May 22, 2014, arrested the men and seized fuel pumps, 1,500 litres of fuel and six vehicles, as well as equipment and paperwork, closing the site down.

ELSTON HALL EXPRESS

New Hall Cricket

January 2016 Number 21 30p

Happy New Year!

By Elston Hall Express reporters

Elston Hall pupils have kicked off the Spring term with lots of learning! Already this term, lots of exciting events have happened in school.

We welcomed Sarah Holt, a Great British hammer thrower into school. She led exciting sporting activities with all children from Nursery up to Year 6, followed by an assembly where children got to ask her questions about her sporting achievements!

Elston Hall also held our own Eurovision song contest, with pupils across the school singing songs in French! We hope to welcome other schools in to compete in the next round of the competition in the Summer term.

Children enjoying the activities led by Sarah Holt and Sports for Schools

Thank you to Phil Sutton from The Kings CE High School who worked with every Key Stage Two pupil to design a 'big art attack' which is now proudly displayed in our junior hall!

• Next edition published in April • Next edition published in April •

- Elston Hall Primary School has almost 700 pupils from Nursery-Year 6.
- The school, in Stafford Road, Fordhouses, was judged Outstanding by Ofsted in December 2014
- All five sub-sections: Quality of Teaching, Achievement of Pupils, Behaviour and Safety, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision were all rated as Outstanding.
- Elston Hall has now become a Multi-Academy Trust, and plans to support Primary schools across Wolverhampton
- In September 2015 Elston Hall and St Bartholomew's C of E Primary school in Penn were accredited as a National Teaching School Alliance, supporting Wolverhampton schools to improve teaching and learning
- End of Key stage results in July 2015 show fantastic attainment and progress:
  - 79% of pupils gained the Good Level of Development at the end of Reception, 12% more than the national average.
  - 87% passed the Year 1 phonics screening test, 10% higher than the national average.
  - More than 90% of pupils gained a Level 2+ at the end of KS1 in reading, writing and maths, and results at all levels were higher than national averages.
  - At the end of KS2, 100% of pupils gained a Level 4+ in reading, 98% of pupils gained a Level 4+ in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling and 94% of pupils gained a Level 4+ in writing and maths, all higher than the 2015 national average.
- 100% of pupils make expected progress with many more making more than expected progress.
- The school was one of a handful nationally to recently receive a £25,000 Pupil Premium Award from the Deputy Prime Minister recognising the Outstanding progress of its disadvantaged children.
- The school prides itself on building an ethos where all learners are happy, in an environment based on trust and support.
- Look out for the next edition of Elston Hall Express, written entirely by pupils of Elston Hall and due to be published in April.

ELSTON HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Offer of 40-acre gift comes with condition

A 40-ACRE patch of land could be handed over to the residents of a South Staffordshire village - but only on the condition that it can never be built on.

The historic Wrottesely family has offered to hand over the land, the equivalent of 40 football pitches, at Perton Court Farm, if its neighbouring site is transformed into a new development of 165 homes.

The value of the land is estimated to be up to £400,000. Lord Clifton Wrottesely said it was being done in a bid to leave a 'legacy' in the village.

Subject to the housing being built, the land will be given to Perton Parish Council or the district council to preserve the gap between the village and Wolverhampton.

The offer comes as South Staffordshire District Council is consulting on its local plan, which outlines where new homes should be built over the next 20 years.

Proud

Perton Court Farm is one of six sites competing for an allocation to build the 165 homes that Perton is projected to need over the next 15 years. If selected the Wrottesley family's trust will hand over around half of the site to the village or community.

Lord Clifton Wrottesley said his family was proud of its more than 900-year association with the local community and wanted to ensure that new homes would come with a lasting benefit for local people.

It is also offering a large contribution towards the village youth club, an all-weather sports pitch, other recreational facilities, allotments and a £4 million endowment fund to maintain the land and facilities.

Lord Wrottesley said: "I really believe that new housing should benefit the existing residents as much as it should anyone moving to the village. We have listened to what people in Perton want to see and think we can use housing as a catalyst to really improve village life."

Ton-up Ted celebrates

Thumbs up from retired butcher Edward Meredith who celebrated his 100th birthday surrounded by his family

A CHEEKY centenarian who 'loves the banter' says the secret to his longevity is morning runs.

Retired butcher Ted Meredith celebrated his 100th birthday at The Shrubbery in Codsall surrounded by his family.

As he enjoyed his cake and read his telegram from the Queen, he told tales of the mischief he used to get up to in his younger days and admitted he had an eye for the ladies.

"I always used to start the day with a run, one mile then one mile back.

"I loved my job, I used to go out on my bike in the morning with all the meat when the rations were in."

Mr Meredith and his late wife Monica ran a shop in Gnosall, near Stafford. They had two daughters, Wendy and Rita, who have also passed away.

A keen sportsman in his heyday, Mr Meredith is a follower of Wolves.

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University campus car park gets green light

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a new university car park and road junction off a busy road in Walsall have been approved despite more than 500 objections.

The University of Wolverhampton has been granted permission for the permanent 248-space car park and new access point off the Broadway at the Walsall campus.

The new access road will replace the Magdalene Road entrance to the campus.

It will come as welcome news to residents of the Broadway Park Estate who regularly complained over commuting vehicles travelling through. But it will be a bitter blow to Palfrey residents living opposite to the proposed plans who had put forward alternate plans which were rejected.

The university hope to have the work completed by the end of this year.

Supervisor jailed for £81k scam on business

A CROOKED credit control supervisor who fleeced her employer out of more than £81,000 has started a 20-month jail sentence after pleading guilty to theft.

BY JOHN SCOTT

Mother-of-two Joanne Kudlacek intercepted payments intended for the firm and channelled them into two bank accounts of her own, a judge was told. The 43-year-old, from Wombourne, got away with the swindle for almost three years.

It was uncovered when a phone call intended for her was answered by a colleague, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Kudlacek, who had worked for London and Cambridge Properties in Kingswinford since 2001, was promoted to the post of credit control supervisor eight years later and turned to crime in October 2011, said Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting.

Pocketing

She intercepted a cheque sent to the firm by bailiffs employed to collect unpaid rents from commercial tenants and then told them their payment had not arrived. Kudlacek asked for a replacement electronic money transfer to be sent but gave them her bank account details instead of those of her employer.

She pulled off the con 32 times in two years eight months – while also pocketing cash paid direct by a tenant on eight further occasions – before being caught.

Kudlacek was arranging for a further £5,092 to be paid by money transfer by the bailiffs when their phone call to check if it should go to 'the normal account' was answered by a surprised colleague who triggered an internal inquiry that uncovered the scam. The defendant still tried to bluff her way out of it and even unsuccessfully appealed against her dismissal but gave a frank admission when interviewed by police in June last year. She was charged on November 28.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said the stolen cash had been used to pay off mortgage arrears together with personal debts – one to a loan shark – run up by Kudlacek. The lawyer explained: "She did most of the family finances and her husband knew nothing of this."

He continued: "She is so ashamed that she had not even told him or their children of her court appearance." She also got another job as an accounts clerk without revealing anything about the legal proceedings she faced.

"She has literally buried her head in the sand about what she has done and is now going to have to have an incredibly difficult conversation with members of her family."

Kudlacek, from Forge Leys, of previous good character, admitted the theft of £81,616 and was jailed.The defendant, who now faces a Proceeds of Crime hearing, has a £35,000 mortgage on a property worth around £140,000, the court heard.

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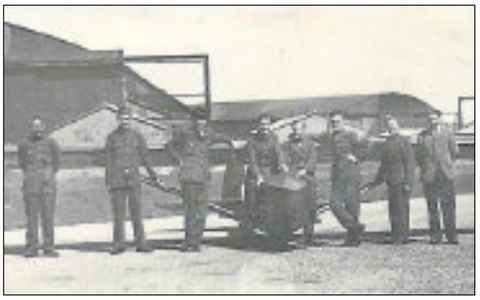
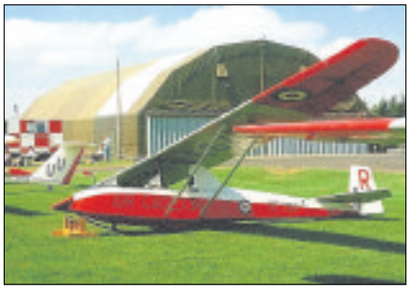
Walsall Squadron on a visit to RAF Lyneham during the 70s

Halesowen cadets show Air Commodore J Chamier a ground trainer


Wolverhampton cadets including Ray Simpson with their glider

Miles Messenger aircraft at Monmore Green ATC in 70s


AN ATC Slingsby T.31 glider at RAF Cosford

Air training corps that took off 75 years ago

THE Air Training Corps is celebrating 75 years. It began with the announcement in 1938 of the formation of the Air Defence Cadet Corps.

This would give 20,000 boys between the ages of 14 and 18 basic instruction in some of the things they would need to know to become airmen.

Air-minded youngsters flocked to join and on January 1, 1941, the Corps was taken over by the Air Ministry and renamed the Air Training Corps, with the motto Venture Adventure.

There were squadrons in almost every town. The boys learned drill with Lee-Enfield rifles, Morse Code, astro-navigation principles, aircraft recognition, and many squadrons had an old aircraft on which they could give airframe instruction.

Cadets went to local RAF stations to be given air experience flights.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

For instance Vic Thwaites from Brewood who was in D Flight of 1047 Squadron had six flights during the War, in Wellingtons at RAF Hixon, Ansons at RAF Halfpenny Green and an Oxford at RAF Wheaton Aston.

He was also given 15 minutes instruction in a Link ground trainer, and early form of simulator, at RAF Perton.

Level

At an early stage it was decided that cadets should learn to fly, and the pre-war Slingsby Cadet was ordered in large numbers. Surprisingly this was single seat, and cadets learned at first to keep the wings level in a ground slide, then did low hops, then higher hops and finally a circuit.

The airspeed was controlled by the instructor at the controls of the winch.

Locally No.43 ATC Gliding School was established at Walsall Airport, and after the War moved to RAF Lichfield.

Ray Simpson of Fallings Park had a total of 48 instructions on a Cadet glider during 1948 at Lichfield, of which 15 were classed as 'slides', 15 as 'airborne slides', 9 as 'low hops' and 9 as 'high hops'.

Better sense prevailed after the War and two seat gliders were ordered for instruction, and local training centred on RAF Cosford.

The ATC still thrives today with both 1046 and 1047 Squadrons active in Wolverhampton, and other squadrons in Codsall, Sedgeley, Walsall and elsewhere.

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre is preparing an exhibition of the ATC's 75 Years, centred on three ATC gliders, and is appealing for the loan of photographs and memorabilia to help tell the full story.

Just pop in to the Centre any Sunday, or e.mail alecbrew@hotmail.co.uk

Les Broadfield and two other cadets of 1047 Squadron

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Pensioner savaged by two dogs in her garden

A 72-YEAR-OLD partially-sighted woman was savaged by two dogs in her garden and suffered 'significant injuries' to her leg and arms, a court heard.

Dog owner Pam Cheadle was unaware of the attack until her son brought the dogs back to the house with 'blood on their mouths'.

By Clare Butler

Walsall Magistrates Court heard that Cheadle's Staffordshire Bull Terriers had got loose from her garden on October 10 last year and 'viciously attacked' the elderly woman while she was hanging out her washing.

Surgery

One of the dogs had also bitten the gas man last year, Walsall magistrates heard.

Both dogs had gone missing following the attack but were ordered to be destroyed once found.

Victim, Susan Rowley, was left facing numerous injuries and had to have stitches and surgery for the 'deep wounds' on her leg and hands following the attack in her garden in Lawrence Street, Willenhall.

Cheadle, aged 52, was found guilty of owning and being in charge of a dog dangerously out of control causing injury.

She was given a prison sentence of 12 weeks suspended for 12 months and 120 hours of unpaid work, alongside compensation and court costs totalling £1,225.

She was also disqualified from owning and possessing dogs for life. She had pleaded guilty to charges at an earlier meeting.

Mrs Rachael Smith, prosecuting, said: "Susan Rowley is a frail and partially sighted elderly lady who had to sustain this vicious attack. During the attack she spoke to the dogs to try and calm them until they eventually released her.

Mr Gregory Burke, defending, said: "She is genuinely remorseful for what has happened."

Cathy books in for tour of schools

Author Cathy Cassidy visiting Bishops Castle Community College as part of a tour to promote her two latest works

BEST-SELLING author Cathy Cassidy stopped off in Wolverhampton as part of her latest book tour.

Cathy, who has written 23 books of young adult fiction, visited Wolverhampton Grammar School and six local primary schools to promote her novel, Fortune Cookie.

She is one of the UK's top selling children's authors and has twice won the prestigious Queen of Teen Award, and is Puffin's best-selling author for girls.

The event was part of Wolverhampton Grammar School's library outreach activities, and was organised by senior librarian Zoe Rowley.

She said: "Here at Wolverhampton Grammar School we are always looking for new ways to promote literacy and reading for pleasure. By working with high profile authors this ensures that each and every child leaves us with a lifelong love of reading."

Former art teacher and magazine editor Cathy tours extensively around the UK, meeting over 10,000 young readers each year. Her body of work includes Summer's Dream, Angel Cake, Indigo Blue and Gingersnaps.

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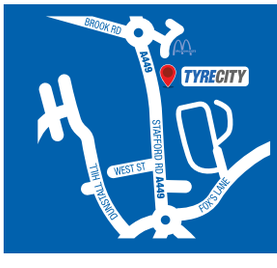

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Get in the swim with club event

BLACK Country Triathletes are holding an aquathlon next month for those wishing to have a go at swimming and running in one event.

It is open to all abilities and takes place on March 12. The adult event is new in the race series for this year and involves a 400m swim in Wombourne Leisure Centre pool before a 5k run along the Wombourne railway walk and back.

Various distances apply to the junior races but all involve a pool swim, 50m for eight-year-olds up to 400m for 15 & 16 year olds, and a fully supervised run either on the playing fields or along the railway walk and back.

Run distances are between 600m and 4000m depending on age.

Full details can be found at www.blackcountrytiathletes.com and online entry is via www.entrycentral.com. Entries must be received by March 5.

Tuning up for soul special

MOTOWN and northern soul fans are in for a treat at Wombourne in April.

The ever popular evening of songs and dancing is due to be held at Wombourne Civic Centre.

DJs Dave Thomas and Mick Stevens will be playing Motown and northern soul favourites on April 9 from 8pm to midnight.

To book tickets in advance call 01902 664121.

Owl Trust to wing in with a park 'magical mystery tour'

WORK has started on a £900,000 owl sanctuary which is winging its way to Himley Park. The World Owl Trust is behind the ambitious plans to create a 'magical mystery tour' of feathered friends at the old walled garden.

By Clare Butler

Work has got under way to clear more than 20 years' worth of debris and undergrowth on the two and a half-acre derelict site.

The trust holds some of the finest and most diverse collections of breeding birds in the UK consisting of about 190 birds of 52 species – some of which can be seen nowhere else in the world in captivity.

Alan Peace, chairman of the board of trustees, said the sanctuary would be 'out of this world'.

Impact

He said: "This is a massive project which will have a huge impact on the area. To have an international organisation like this moving into Himley is a major coup."

The project will also see an education centre, tea room and shop built at the site. Mr Peace added: "We can't wait to take over the old walled garden at Himley.

"It was pretty overgrown and jungle like, so much so that you could hardly get into it, but the surroundings were superb for us. Among all the trees we can build new aviaries for the birds which will be like a magical mystery tour.

"It is going to be out of this world once complete. The immediate need is to get rid of all the undergrowth to enable the building of all the facilities needed to commence.

"The trust is also hoping to be able to find enough volunteers who are able to give the time and energy to help clear the site," he added.

It is hoped that around 100 owls will eventually be taking their perch at the sanctuary. Anyone who would like to get involved with the charity can contact Mr Peace on 07791 900445 for more information.

Speaking last year, Mr Peace said that the trust was delighted to have secured a lease from Dudley Council.

Alan Peace, Jo Ellis, Barbara Brittain and Ivan Ellis, look at plans for the new World Owl Centre

Calling all of the leap year ladies

A CALL has gone out to brave ladies who are thinking of proposing to their other halves this leap year.

Blakelands Country House, near Bridgnorth, want to hear about any romantic or unusual stories of how women proposed on the leap year – and one lucky winner will be chosen to get £1,000 off a wedding reception at the venue.

This romantic tradition came about in the fifth century when, according to an Irish legend, St Bridget complained to St Patrick that women had to wait too long for their suitors to propose and struck a deal with him to allow women to propose to men every four years.

Paul and Heather Morgan, owners of the country house, said: " It's a great time to propose."

To enter email paul@blakelands.com about how you proposed with 'leap year competition' in the subject box. The closing date is March 14.

Fishy tales at Trust event

SAVING the native crayfish is the subject of a talk at the next meeting of a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust group which is due to be held in Wombourne.

Nick Mott, a freshwater ecology officer, will speak to the trust's South Staffordshire branch at Wombourne Community Centre Library on February 25, starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome.

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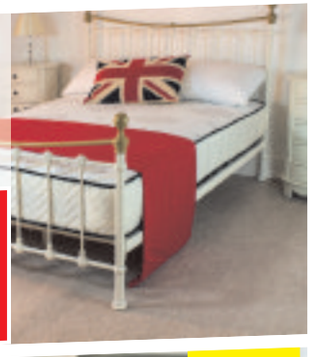

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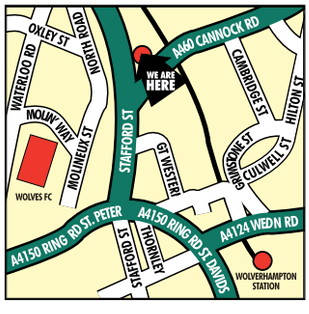

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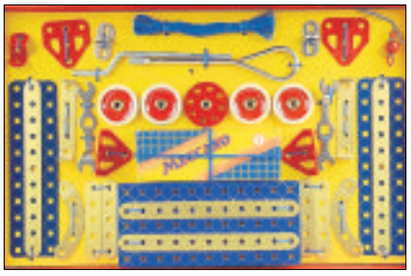
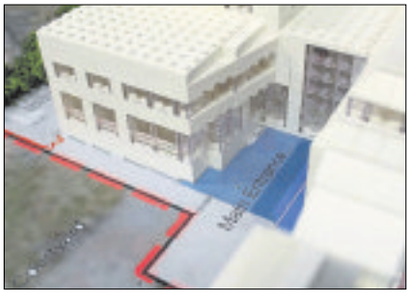
Exhibition builds on toy memories



The Meccano Number 1 set, from 1939 (pic Cat Fuller)



Lego model of the University Technical College

An interwar house made using Bayko (pic Brian Salter)

FROM wooden blocks to elaborate Lego landscapes, a new exhibition takes visitors on a journey through the last 170 years of toy construction kits.

Visitors can journey through last 170 years of construction kits, reports MARION BRENNAN

Assembled Dreams: A History of Building Toys at Wolverhampton Art Gallery features a range of classic toys collected by the city council's arts and heritage service, and well as loans from the author and toy historian Brian Salter.

The collection features more than two dozen different construction kits and models spanning more than a century of history.

It charts developments from the wooden blocks used by the German Kindergarten movement in the 1840s right through to Lego Architecture, introduced in 2008.

It also explains how Lego became the largest toy maker in the world, and how the plastic interlocking brick so commonly associated with the Danish manufacturer was first devised in the mid-1930s by British toy maker Kiddicraft.

The Lego Group began in 1916, creating wooden toys out of a carpentry shop in Denmark.

But after the Second World War, when plastic became the new big thing, Lego bosses bought a plastic mould injector from a salesman who showed them what a British toy-maker was doing.

He was Hilary Fisher Page who had created, and legally patented, a plastic building block. But Lego just took the design without ever getting in touch with Page.

Hollow

Over the years they refined it – the official birth of what is really the modern Lego came in 1958, when they added the hollow tubes on the underside to help with interlocking.

But the design remains that taken from Kiddicraft.

Page's daughter has said her father died before finding out about Lego, and certainly before it became one of the biggest brands in the history of toys.

Ironically, Lego has since become an aggressive litgator against brands it sees as stealing its designs, becoming embroiled in numerous legal battles, including a famous fight with Tyco in the early 1980s which Lego lost.

A highlight of the show is an impressive model made by students from the West Midlands Construction University Technical College of its £70 million new home, currently being built at the site of the former Springfield Brewery.

Work started at the 12-acre plot in September. The college, which will offer 14 to 18-year-olds technical, practical and academic courses, is due to open later this year and will eventually take 600 students.

Councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for city economy, said: "Building toys have been part of the childhood experience of everyone who has grown up in the industrial age.

From the simple efforts of babies to pile blocks one on another to adult hobbyists' drive to build ever more complex models, construction kits play a key role in teaching us about how to build.

"This exhibition will not only be a fascinating trip down memory lane for people young and old, but may also encourage a few visitors to dust off their old Meccano sets and get building."

It runs until March 5.

Events assistant supervisor Michelle Hallard with building blocks

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Last Methodist church in town celebrates 50 years

THE last remaining Methodist church in Willenhall is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Portobello Methodist Church was due to hold a special service last week, 50 years to the day since the church opened in the town.

Church organiser Kerene Mckeown, has attended there for 40 years. There are plans to hold numerous celebratory events throughout the year to mark the milestone.

There was also an exhibition showcasing all the important events taken place at the church over its lifetime.

Although it is the only surviving Methodist church in Willenhall however, Kerene said numbers have fallen over the decades.

Shame

"We currently don't have a Sunday school," she said. "Our boys brigade came from another church that closed down in New Invention."

"It is a shame so many churches have closed. We want to say well done to us and to keep going.

"There is a small congregation that keeps us going and they work hard fundraising."

The original church building was knocked down because of road improvements.

William Dunn, who has attended the church since it opened, has said it is still going strong.

Mr Dunn, aged 83, from Penn, said: "It is quite an achievement really to have survived 50 years. It is a thriving church and doing well."

Mr Dunn was originally the captain of the boys brigade and is still involved in supporting the group.

He also helps maintain the church and carry out fundraising.

Kerene McKeown with George Evans and Bill Dunne and past picture

Cum on – name Slade ale

A COMPETITION is being held to name a new beer created in honour of the 50th anniversary of Wolverhampton pop group Slade.

Two Towers Brewery, based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, is making two ales to mark the golden anniversary of the band, fronted by Noddy holder and famed for hits such as Merry Xmas Everybody and Come On Feel The Noise.

One will be a light ale to be bottled and sold at the 50th anniversary fans convention at the Slade Rooms in Broad Street, Wolverhampton on Saturday, March 19. The other is a dark ale for which the brewery is inviting suggestions of names.

Quizzes and exhibitions of Slade memorabilia will also be on offer for fans, and tickets are priced at £10.

The competition winner will be announced at the convention and will receive a dozen bottles of the ale. Suggestions can be e-mailed to twotowersbrewery.competition@gmail.com

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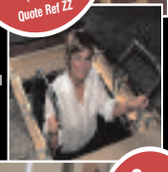

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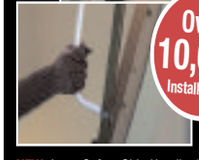

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Village festival focus on war – and peace

A CHURCH in Codsall is holding an exhibition of First World War art as part of the the village's community arts festival.

Copies of paintings by Stanley Spencer and Paul Nash will be on display at St Nicholas Church in the War and Peace exhibition. The church will also host Codsall in Wartime, a display of local wartime effects and photos.

Local schools are producing war and peace-themed displays and there will be places for people to add their own responses and prayers, and opportunities to donate to Foundation4Peace.

The War and Peace exhibition runs from 10am-4pm on March 12 and from 1-5pm on March 13. At 4pm on the Saturday there will also be a screening of a film about about Ivor Gurney, a soldier in the First World War. At 6.30pm on Sunday there will be a service celebrating peace and reconciliation.

The 11-bedroom Davenport House is set in its own private parkland

'Wedding' mansion to let – at £40,000 a year

A GEORGIAN mansion that has played host to political leaders, captains of industry not to mention countless weddings, has gone on the market to let – for anybody with a spare £40,000 a year.

Davenport House in Worfield, near Bridgnorth, is available for rent after Roger and Jane Murphy, who for the past 22 years have been running it as an hotel and conference centre, decided to retire.

The 11-bedroom property, set in its own private parkland close to the centre of the village, dates back to 1726. Susie King, of Balfours Property, said the property would be suitable for either commercial or residential use. The property also has six reception rooms, stables and grazing land.

Henry Davenport, who made his fortune in India, was the first owner, having commissioned renowned architect Francis Smith of Warwick to design and build the property.

The house, in the Palladian style, which means it has four matching pavilions, remained home to the Davenport family until 1993, when it was leased to Mr and Mrs Murphy.

Mr Murphy said: "It offers the opportunity for the most magnificent and memorable occasions."

The Murphys will leave Davenport House in September.

Jail for man in 'horrific' attack over £200 debt

A MAN who carried out an 'horrific' attack at a Willenhall pub over a £200 debt, leaving his victim with a broken jaw, has been jailed.

Danny Aiken, aged 49, of Harvesters Way, Short Heath, was jailed for five years and 10 months for a 'sustained' assault on a man who he lent the cash to a year before the attack. When onlookers tried to intervene, he told them that it was 'personal'.

By Jordan Harris

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Aiken, who pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent, punched his victim to the ground and then kicked him, stamping on his head after the man was knocked to the ground.

The incident happened at the Red Lion pub in Bentley, Willenhall, on the Wolverhampton Road in November in 2013.

Medication

The attack left Aiken's victim with a broken jaw, which has had to be operated on multiple times and the court heard that he still has problems with taste and sensations.

The court was also told that the victim has started suffering from seizures since the attack and has been unable to find work in his field of driving due to a dependence on medication.

Prosecuting, Mr Oliver Woodhouse, said: "The pair knew each other from attending the same pub for a number of years.

"Nearly 12 months prior to the night of the attack, Mr Aiken had lent the victim £200, which he had not yet had back.

"On that night, he had asked for the money back before telling the man to go outside. Once they were outside, he proceeded to punch him, followed by three kicks and two stamps to the head.

"Witnesses tried to stop but were told that everything was OK and that the matter was personal."

When police arrived, Aiken said the pair had been in a fight with two other men.

Defending, Mr Peter McCartney said that Aiken was a man of good character and that the attack was prompted by stress in his personal life and an annoyance that he had not yet received his money back.

Character

"It is obvious that it was extremely out of character, something must have got to him that night."

Judge Andrew Lockhart said: "You are someone who has come here with no previous convictions and a character which is seemingly better than good, it could be classed as exemplary.

"However, whatever the circumstances were, you carried out an attack that those who witnessed it claimed was horrific."

Try art of making time for yourself

WOLVERHAMPTON Art Gallery is hosting a free drawing taster session for those aged 50 and over.

It is part of the new This Way Up art programme run by Creative Health which invites people to take time out for themselves and have a go at something new.

Artist Jim Morris will offer guidance and encouragement during the session aimed at anyone interested in drawing, from the complete beginner to those with experience. It will be held on Wednesday, February 24 from 1.30-3pm.

Places are limited and so those interested in taking part are urged to book in advance by emailing katy@creativehealthcic.co.uk

This Way Up will stage a number of practical, hands-on art sessions inspired by Wolverhampton Art Gallery's collections.

For more information on the programme, visit www.creativehealthcic.co.uk

IMAGE COURTESY OF DOROTHY PERKINS

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Payout for redundancy at councils nears £50m

CASH-STRAPPED councils across the Black Country and Staffordshire have spent almost £50 million on redundancy payments to staff in the last five years.

A Freedom of Information (FOI) request shows that Staffordshire County Council has shelled out almost £30m in redundancy payments since 2010/11.

Dudley Council has paid over £21m, Wolverhampton council spent more than £13m, while Walsall Council spent £5,947,094.

Across the four authorities 5,391 staff were either made redundant or took voluntary redundancy.

Halved

Sandwell Council failed to respond to the FOI request despite being given 60 working days to do so.

The huge payouts have come during a time when the region's authorities are battling to meet swingeing cuts to central government grants.

Wolverhampton council, which has seen its central government funding reduced by £120m over the last five years, paid 1,546 workers a total of £13,680,707.

By Peter Madeley

The payouts included £6,742,427 in 2013/14 when 777 employees were either laid off or took voluntary redundancy.

In 2011 one high level civil servant was paid £57,744, while in 2014 there were five payments made of more than £35,000, including one of £47,856.

The biggest payout came in 2014/15 when 777 employees left the council at a cost of £6,742,427.

Wolverhampton council's staff has almost halved to 3,355 over the period. The authority's finance chief, Councillor Andrew Johnson, said that redundancies were a consequence of the council's efficiency savings.

"We have tried as far as possible to make the council run efficiently," he said.

Around the world at art collection

Ed Isaacs at the sketching event with the mayor of Wolverhampton Ian Brookfield and mayoress Paula

AN artist has exhibited his sketches from around the world and shared his hottest tips and tricks.

Ed Isaacs, from Tettenhall, has travelled the world drawing intricate urban sketching of his surroundings and he hosted a demonstration of his art a Wolverhampton Art Gallery where he showed a variety of techniques to both budding and experienced artists, and shared his thoughts on some of his finest works.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton Ian and Paula Brookfield were also in attendance, having bought an impression of the city's Queen's Square drawn by Mr Isaacs. The event was part of the Wolverhampton Society of Artists' biennial showcase at the gallery on Saturday, February 6.

The exhibition, featuring work from some of the most talented artists from the area, is still on show at the gallery until February 27. One more event is being held in conjunction with the exhibition. Sarah Stokes will be at the gallery on Saturday, giving her insight into watercolour wildlife painting. The class is free and will run from 10am - 2pm.

Hippodrome date for dance students

Dance students from left back, Ann-Marie Wood, Chelsea Cowley, Emily Hartshorne, and front, Faye Bolan

TALENTED Walsall College dance students were selected to perform the 'curtain raiser' at the Birmingham Hippodrome during the latest production of Sleeping Beauty.

Level 3 students at the college, Ann-Marie Wood, 18, Chelsea Cowley, 17, Emily Hartshorne, 18, and Faye Bolan, 16, took to the stage as part of an ensemble, performing a five-minute dance piece before Mathew Bourne's production began. The short piece, 'The Beauties Awake', is a brand-new dance inspired by themes from the main show.

The students were given the honour after impressing judges during the auditions process, where hundreds of hopefuls tried out and only 29 were selected. They have been attending regular rehearsals and working with a professional choreographer and two members of Mathew Bourne's New Adventures cast.

Matthew Bourne OBE is widely hailed as the UK's most popular and successful choreographer and director. He is the creator of the world's longest running ballet production, a five-time Olivier Award winner, and the only British director to have won the Tony Award for both Best Choreographer and Best Director of a Musical. Performing Arts lecturer at Walsall College, Julie Wright said: "We are very proud of the students and can't wait to see them showcase their talents on stage.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to build up their experience of performing to a live audience and working in a professional environment.."

Faye said: "So far the whole experience has been very challenging but I feel I've learnt so much. I'm really excited about performing in front of a large crowd."

Medal won by heroic soldier sells for £48k

A MEDAL won by an heroic soldier who fought against Zulu warriors in a bloody conflict and is buried in Bilston has been sold at a Stourbridge auction for nearly £50,000.

The medal of 1524 Private Joseph Bromwich 2-24th Foot, who fought in the Ango-Zulu War, was sold to a Midlands private collector for £48,980.

It was inherited by a Black Country couple through their family, who had no idea of its value.

Around 150 British and colonial soldiers defended a mission station in the Battle of Roke's Drift in South Africa. The fight lasted for 12 hours and was against a Zulu force of thousands.

It proved the inspiration for the 1964 blockbuster movie Zulu, starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker.

Brother

Private Bromwich, who is buried in Bilston, served in the battle, aged just 22, alongside his elder brother Charles.

The medal was originally estimated to be sold for around £20,000 at Fieldings Auctioneers but went for more than twice as much.

Private Bromwich was discharged from the Army in 1882, suffering from hepatitis, and settled with Bilston-born wife Betsy, in Aston, opening a boot and shoe repairing shop.

Eventually moving to the Black Country and continuing to work as a boot and shoe repairer.

His wife died in 1914 and the following year, he was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue. He died on the February 25 1916, aged just 60, and is buried in an unmarked grave in a Bilston Cemetery.

Auction director Nick Davies with the rare medal that came up for sale

Speedy broadband boost

MORE than 10,000 businesses and households are now able to access high-speed fibre broadband thanks to the Black Country Broadband Project.

Parts of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Wednesbury and West Bromwich are among the latest areas to benefit from the project which is being led by Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and BT.

They include: Bentley, Blackheath, Brierley Hill, Castle, Darlaston, Ettingshall, Netherton, Priory, Rowley, St Andrews, St James', St Paul's, St Thomas's, the centre of West Bromwich and Woodside.

As part of the roll-out, engineers have already installed more than 80 fibre broadband roadside cabinets, which are needed to enable local premises to connect to the new network.

Work has also started on the second phase, which is extending the reach of the technology to additional parts of Brierley Hill, Dudley, James Bridge, Streetly, Tipton and Willenhall.

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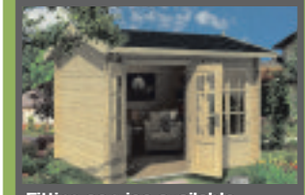

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Artist/games designer John Kearney with his latest game creation Fire Fu

You play short games that last less than a minute

There are big bosses, monsters and creatures to unlock and battle

Swipe the screen to wield fire to burn and kill various creatures

Test your skills against others to climb the leaderboard

Game to blaze a trail

A NEW mobile game is set to blaze onto the scene and could be Wolverhampton's answer to Angry Birds.

City-based game creators RetroFist has signed a deal with Channel 4's gaming arm All 4 Games to release Fire Fu on mobile phones and Android devices.

The fresh creation involves swiping the screen to wield fire to burn and kill various creatures, critters and monsters, and has already been compared to hit franchise Rayman by some industry experts.

The release date is yet to be confirmed but the game is expected to be available for Apple products such as iPhones and iPads in the next few months and Android devices later in the year.

John Kearney, the sole artist for the game, worked for a year alongside programmer Rich Cross to write Fire Fu and believes the addictive game has the potential to become as big as three-billion times downloaded Angry Birds.

The 37-year-old, from Tettenhall, said: "There is no reason why not. It's something we are really proud of, it all depends whether it takes off. We'll have to see how the ball starts rolling when it gets released.

"It's one of those games you find hard to put down, and it can become quite competitive if you start playing against friends or family. There is a leaderboard as well which adds to it.

"You play short games that last less than a minute. There are big bosses, monsters and creatures to unlock and battle, with more points on offer to climb the leaderboard the harder the tasks become."

The game was first spotted by Channel 4 at the EGX gaming exhibition at Birmingham's NEC in September. Mr Kearney and Mr Cross, who work from the University of Wolverhampton's Science Park, have been involved in games for a number of years.

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The Jersey Boys cast: Ferriday, Webb, Corner and Griffiths Photo: Helen Maybanks

Work your way back to this great pop musical

REVIEWS

Jersey Boys, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THEY may have started out as 'four guys under a street lamp singing someone else's songs' but The Four Seasons went on to become one of the biggest names in music.

And it was all down to Hollywood star Joe Pesci. Of course, he wasn't big in the movies back then, but it was he who introduced Bob Gaudio to rest of the band – and the rest, as they say, is history.

And, while musicals are made based on the music of Queen and Abba, this one is the real deal. A genuine compelling and often heartbreaking tale of the New Jersey pals who spawned such timeless classics as Sherry, Let's Hang On, Walk Like A Man and Rag Doll.

The show-stopping musical tells of their highs and lows, from their law-breaking early days and line-up and name changes to their rise to the top via personal crises, tragedies and break-ups. But the one consistent theme is music that still stands the test of time.

Despite looking like a cross between Ardal O'Hanlon and John Bishop, Matt Corner could not be more perfectly cast as Frankie Valli. He has a stunning range and one can see him putting all his effort into hitting those high notes. He will reprise the role in the West End from March 15 as the musical celebrates its eighth year in London, now at the Piccadilly Theatre.

The harmonies between all bandmates (Sam Ferriday as Gaudio, Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi and Stephen Webb as Tommy DeVito) were terrific, while the rest of the team could also not be faulted. They are one of music's most charismatic, enigmatic groups and theirs is a story that will never be tired of being told.

Oh What A Night? It certainly was. It runs at the Grand until Saturday.

Mark Shipp

Bourne to be wild in fairy ballet re-vampire

Sleeping Beauty, B'ham Hippodrome

Matthew Bourne's thrilling reinvention of Sleeping Beauty takes only the bare bones of Pepita's classic 1890 ballet but keeps Tchaikovsky's marvellous music largely intact.

The Bourne ultimatum is to entertain, and he does so lavishly with a production that blends grand ballet techniques with modern dance, even a hint of breakdance, in his irreverent approach that makes a familiar fairy tale weird again.

He freely rewrites the story to have the baby Aurora attended by vampire fairies and the evil fairy Carabosse (no Maleficent here) have a wicked son Caradoc to lustily pursue the princess years later. He then explains her gamekeeper suitor's one hundred year wait by having him turned into a vampire too.

Being a Bourne production, it's a sexy concoction with lots of dark humour – from a curtain-climbing puppet baby to selfie-generation urban explorers who open the act after the '100 year interval' moves from 1911 to 'last night'.

The only minus with this show, which has been revived from two years ago, was that the music was recorded. Few touring companies can afford an orchestra.

But the dancers were dynamic, the costumes and sets a gothic fantasy made real and the whole experience wildly romantic – it's a Bourne winner.

Leon Burakowski

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Caliban from The Tempest, part of the paper figures in the installation

A scene from Julius Caesar – the main protagonist slumped with a dagger in his back

Romeo and Juliet – life-size paper tribute marking 400 years since Shakespeare's death

The Bard himself is represented in the display, working at his desk

Antonio (The Merchant of Venice) gambles in the tavern

Paper trail for Bard

FROM King Richard III to King Lear and Caliban to Romeo – Shakespeare's most famous characters have been handcrafted from paper and cardboard for an exhibition.

The show displays scale models over 6ft tall, a 10ft high balcony and even a walk-in tavern.

It has been made as a tribute to mark 400 years since the Bard's death. Each piece on display at Birmingham City University was individually crafted by 22 first year students from the design for theatre, performance and events degree course. They used techniques learned on the course to sculpt 780 metres of corrugated cardboard and nearly 5,000 metres of brown paper into the entire setting and characters.

Among the figures on show are a likeness of William Shakespeare himself, sat writing at his desk and full-size replicas of some of theatre's most famous names – including King Lear, Caliban, Richard III, Romeo and Juliet.

The exhibition took nearly three weeks to create, with students working day and night to make each setting, character and item from scratch, as well as selecting music and lighting to complement each element. Hollie Wright, module leader for the project, said: "The project is a simple yet extremely effective approach to experiential learning.

"We want the first year students to engage with fundamental principles associated with performance design."

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust helped students with research, later visiting the installation to select a number of characters and settings which will be displayed in Stratford-upon-Avon when the project ends. Housed in the Shell space at the university's Parkside building, it is open to the public until February 26.

Viola, from Twelfth Night, portrayed as she changes on the balcony at the university

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fast theticket

Dreamy ballet

Royal Ballet at Hippodrome
– See Page 31

Pop sensation Halsey

Page 31

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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2 DAYS £99.95
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SAT 14 MAY, 16 JUL, 10 SEP

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2 DAYS £79.95
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- Nightly entertainment
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SUNDAY 3RD APRIL

Inversnaid Hotel Loch Lomond National Park
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This 5 day coach break staying at our Inversnaid Hotel includes a "Ceilidh Night" (Kay-lee), when you will enjoy typical Scottish entertainment with foot tapping music. There will be an excursion everyday including Oban, Glencoe, Rannoch Moor, The Falkirk Wheel - the world's only rotating boat lift, Callander & the Trossachs.

TOUR INCLUDES:
- 4 Nights Half Board
- Nightly entertainment
- Excursions

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Mothers Day

Sunday 6th March 2016

Why not look after one of the most important people in your world, Mum!

Treat her to a lovely three course meal with a visit by Wolfie and a gift for all Mothers.

Hayward Suite: Adults £25, children £12.50
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0871 222 2220 (option 5)
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Sir Jack's

Ed Byrne

Friday, 8pm
Town Hall, B'ham
The Munro-climbing and South America-exploring Mock The Week regular brings his new stand-up show Outside Looking In to the city as part of a 104-date British tour.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Jesse Malin

Tonight (Thu), 7pm
O2 Institute, B'ham
The New York rocker returns after two album releases last year, New York Before The War and Outsiders, and a reissue for his 2002 debut. Don DiLego and Trapper Schoepp support.
www.o2institutebirmingham.co.uk

Foals

Friday, 7pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
Oxford band Foals headline a big indie night out that will also feature a DJ set from local heroes Peace and support from fidgety art rockers Everything Everything.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

Hinds

Tuesday, 8pm
Hare And Hounds, Kings Heath
It is sure to be a full house for these Spanish girl power garage rockers who have caused a stir with punky lo-fi rock 'n' roll debut album Leave Me Alone.
hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Shuggie Otis - CANCELLED
Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Paul Carrack
Sat at 7.30pm,
£28.50 - £38.50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Boss UK: Springsteen Tribute
Fri at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Billy Fury Years Show
Sun at 7.30pm, £18.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Fun Lovin' Criminals
Thu at 7pm, £23.50
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Doors Alive: The Doors Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

UK Throwdown Tour: Max Raptor
Mon at 7pm,
The Rainbow,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Lucy Spraggan
Fri at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Metal All Dayer
Sun at 3pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Rhino's Revenge – CANCELLED
Sat at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Damien Dempsey
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Wilson
Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Foals
Fri at 7.30pm,
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Fat White Family
Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Allison Weiss + Jenny Owen Youngs
Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Walk The Moon
Tue at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Boy & Bear
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Heather Small - The Voice Of M People
Sun at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Inglorious
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Magna Carta
Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Hinds
Tue at 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Halsey
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Twenty One Pilots
Tue at 7pm, £13.50 - £16.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

JAZZ & BLUES

The Blues Band
Thu at 9.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Hot Ginger's Charity Ball
Sat at 8pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Mitch Perrins Atlantic Quintet
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

GoGo Penguin
Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Vula Viel
Thu at 8.30pm - 10.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Tru Groove
Fri at 11pm, Sat at 11pm,
£0 - £8
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Room 4 the Blues - Session
Fri at 8pm
The Claregate Function Room,
Wolverhampton, WV6 9ED.

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue at 8.30pm, Free
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Kelly Oliver
Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
Kitchen Garden Cafe,
Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Cash: Johnny Cash Tribute
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Will Varley
Thu at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Rising Stars: Quatuor Zaide
Mon at 6pm - 9.30pm, £10
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Sarah Nicolls: Moments Of Weightlessness
Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

The Great Songs Of Musical Theatre
Sun at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Lunchtime Organ Concert: Thomas Trotter
Mon at 1pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Youth Orchestra: Rachmaninov's Second
Sun at 7pm, £20
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Gilded Merkin
Sun at 6pm - 11pm, £15
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Jersey Boys
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Lost Things
Fri at 11.30am, 2.30pm, Sat at
11.30am, 2.30pm
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Musicians
Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Odyssey
Mon at 4.30pm, 7pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

40 Days In 40 Minutes
Sat at 5pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Impossible
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Breaking The Code By Hugh Whitemore
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Single Spies
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Mon
at 7.30pm, Tue at 2pm, 7pm, Wed
at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Flying Solo
Thu at 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

ZooNation: Into The Hoods: Remixed
Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Jukebox Sixties Show
Fri at 7.30pm,
Kidderminster Town Hall,
DY10 1DB.
Call 01562 732158

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Dream & A Month In The Country
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, £10 - £26
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Romeo And Juliet
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
7.30pm, £16 - £52
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Russian State Ballet And Opera House: Madame Butterfly
Wed at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

I Know All The Secrets In My World
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant,
Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

Princes Ida
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30/7.30pm,
£12/£10
Forest Arts Centre,
Walsall, WS3 1AG
Call 01922 452970

COMEDY

Ed Byrne: Outside Looking In
Fri at 8pm, £19 - £21
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Comedy Carousel
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Chris Martin: This Show Has A Soundtrack
Fri at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

MET Comedy
Sat at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Jenny Eclair: How To Be A Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane)
Fri at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Carl Hutchinson & Iain Stirling
Thu at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Sandi Toksvig: Politically Incorrect - SOLD OUT
Tue at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

OTHER EVENTS

Caravan Camping & Motorhome Show 2016
Tue at 10am - 6pm, Wed at 10am
- 6pm, Thu at 10am - 6pm,
The NEC Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Bard puts spring in step for ballet

THIS spring's 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare has inspired Birmingham Royal Ballet's spring season in the company's home city.

Last seen on the Birmingham Hippodrome stage with their sumptuous annual festive treat The Nutcracker, BRB return with a programme of three ballets, including two based on plays by the Bard.

BRB is featuring a double bill of Sir Frederick Ashton's classic works, which includes his 1964 ballet The Dream, based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, which opens the company's year-long Shakespeare commemoration. The Dream will be paired with the famous choreographer's 1976 ballet A Month In The Country, being performed for the first time by Birmingham Royal Ballet.

A Month In The Country was one of the last works Frederick Ashton made for The Royal Ballet and is set to stirring music by Chopin.

The company's spring programme will also feature a revival of Kenneth Macmillan's full length classic ballet Romeo and Juliet.

The Dream and A Month In The Country opened last night (Wednesday) and runs until Saturday. Romeo and Juliet will be presented from February 24 to 27.

Elegant

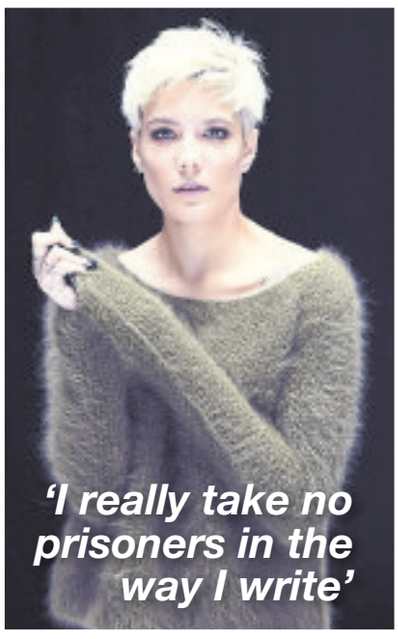
BRB spokeswoman Claire Lishman says: "In The Dream, love gets out of hand for mortals and fairies alike in an elegant and witty distillation of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Alongside it, we offer A Month In The Country, inspired by Turgenev's play. Ashton captures the mood of the play through exquisite dance in this moving account of unrequited love."

On Romeo and Juliet, Ms Lishman adds: "Love at first dance, forbidden passions, dangerous secrets and fate combine in an exhilarating classic ballet."

Set to Prokofiev's soaring score, Romeo and Juliet tells the familiar tale of two young lovers at the mercy of powerful families and their own hearts. From the balcony scene's ecstatic pas de deux to the heart-breaking end, Romeo and Juliet has been an audience favourite since its first performance 51 years ago, when Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev received 43 curtain calls.

Star-crossed dancers – Birmingham Royal Ballet's Jenna Roberts as Juliet and Iain Mackay as Romeo Photo: Roy Smiljanic

Other highlights will include John Cranko's adaptation of The Taming of the Shrew for performance at the Hippodrome from June 16 to 18; and BRB Company Director David Bintley unveiling the world premiere of his interpretation of The Tempest this October.



Honesty best Halsey policy

HALSEY had an awesome 2015. The singer and songwriter from New Jersey, real name Ashley Nicolette Frangipane, topped polls for best breakthrough act, got to No2 in the US chart with debut album Badlands, was special guest on Justin Bieber's track The Feeling and sold out New York's Madison Square Garden.

Still only 21, the one-girl-phenomenon is about to release her latest track New Americana and perform her first gig in Birmingham, at the O2 Academy on Saturday, as part of a sold-out UK tour. Just two years ago she was playing acoustic cover sets at random bars in the American north-east, having left high school with a desire to become a musician.

Early in 2014 everything changed because of one song, the appropriately haunting Ghost. She says: "Everyone I know in music was like 'the song starts with bridge and it's two minutes and 34 seconds long, you're making a mistake, that's not a single, that's not going to get anyone's attention'." Clearly her 70,000-plus Twitter followers who promptly downloaded it disagreed.

"People say I blew up over night," she says. "It took me two years. Sometimes I would be in the middle of Boston at 4am and would ask someone over Twitter if I could stay at their house."

Her music is autobiographical with places, names, even dialogue left intact.

"I'm open about talking about certain things that others may keep quiet," she says. "I want my music to be really authentic, candid, honest. I really take no prisoners in the way I write."

Some enchanted evening with CBSO

TOMORROW'S Friday Night Classics concert in Birmingham sees the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra paying tribute to Broadway legends Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Martin Yates will conduct the CBSO at the 7.30pm concert in Symphony Hall. They will be joined by the University of Birmingham Voices for songs from South Pacific, Carousel, The King and I, The Sound of Music and Oklahoma!

Special guests will include West End singers Robyn North, Sally Ann Triplet, Olivier Award nominated Michael Xavier and former Phantom Scott Davies.

See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Singers' songs with a message

FANS of singer-songwriters can catch up with some class acts.

Jesse Malin fine tunes songs from his reissued 2002 debut The Fine Art of Self-Destruction at the O2 Institute tonight (Thursday). Then tomorrow Lucy Spraggan plays songs from her We Are album at the O2 Academy, also in Birmingham.

Paul Carrack, of How Long and The Living Years fame, is in concert at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.

Protest singer and acoustic guitar troubadour Will Varley, who has supported The Proclaimers and Frank Turner, is at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on February 25.

Foals galloping to stadium status

OXFORD band Foals play Birmingham Barclaycard Arena tomorrow night (Friday), the success of fourth album What Went Down having propelled them to stadium status. Don't miss support from quirky art-pop outfit Everything Everything.

Other highlights include Mystery Jets with songs from sixth and best so far album Curve Of The Earth at the O2 Institute in Digbeth tonight (Thursday).

On Saturday the notorious Fat White Family are at the O2 Institute, the same night Dudley outfit EofE play Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms. Blurryface duo Twenty One Pilots are at O2 Academy on Tuesday.

PARRYS INTERNATIONAL

AMAZING MARCH OFFERS

Valid only until
Monday 22 February 2016
New Bookings Only

Date	Tour	Nights	Brochure£	Save £	Special Offer£
04	London Theatre – SUNNY AFTERNOON Inc Afternoon Tea Cruise	2	225.00	50.00	175.00
04	London Theatre – LES MISERABLES	2	225.00	30.00	195.00
04	London Theatre – WAR HORSE	2	225.00	30.00	195.00
04	Hampton Court Palace – Florimania, Bluebell Steam Railway & Brighton	2	165.00	15.00	150.00
05	Mystery Weekend	1	89.50	10.00	79.50
05	Murder Mystery Inc Salisbury & Winchester	1	95.00	10.00	85.00
07	Isle of Wight - Shanklin	4	199.50	10.00	189.50
11	London Theatre – WOMAN IN BLACK	2	195.00	40.00	155.00
11	London Theatre – GUYS & DOLLS	2	225.00	50.00	175.00
11	Peak District & Kedleston Hall	2	159.50	10.00	149.50
11	Brooklands & Blenheim Palace	2	169.50	10.00	159.50
11	Wonders of Wiltshire	2	139.50	10.00	129.50
12	London Theatre - PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	1	139.50	14.50	125.00
12	Murder Mystery	1	95.00	10.00	85.00
14	Valkenburg, Holland – Inclusive	3	235.00	35.50	199.50

Date	Tour	Nights	Brochure£	Save £	Special Offer£
15	P&O Cruise to Holland – Meals, Live Entertainment & Amsterdam	2	159.50	10.00	149.50
18	Torquay 6 Course Dinners & Live Entertainment	3	189.50	30.00	159.50
18	Hampton Court Palace & Steam Railway	2	165.00	10.00	155.00
18	London Theatre – CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY OR MAMMA MIA Inc Afternoon Tea Cruise	2	225.00	25.50	199.50
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CHOICE

Rose Farquhar

The Voice UK (ITV, 7.15pm)

It's the final round of blind auditions and it's bound to be a tense time for all as the coaches fill the last few places on their teams. Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson will only want the best singers to take through to next week's battle rounds, when their acts will be pitted against each other in head-to-head knockout performances.

This week's prospective stars are teenager Faith Nelson, barefoot vegan Rachel Ann, soldier Dave Barns, hairdresser Aaron Hill and Londoner Rose Farquhar, all of whom take to the stage in the hopes of progressing to the next round of the contest.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Athletics: Glasgow Indoor Grand Prix. Coverage of the meeting from Emirates Arena. **4.30** BBC News. **4.45** Regional Programme. **4.55** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Bournemouth v Everton (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.15 The Voice UK. It's the final round of blind auditions and it's bound to be a tense time for all as the coaches fill the last few places on their teams. Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson will only want the best singers to take through to next week's battle rounds, when their acts will be pitted against each other in head-to-head knockout performances. This week's prospective stars are teenager Faith Nelson, barefoot vegan Rachel Ann, soldier Dave Barns, hairdresser Aaron Hill and Londoner Rose Farquhar, all of whom take to the stage in the hopes of progressing to the next round of the contest.

8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Married couple Mike and Cina from Wiltshire include a dream honeymoon on their perfect prize wishlist, and Shane Richie challenges them to answer questions in various categories to win their chosen items. Plus, Gaby Roslin is joined by guest Pixie Lott, performs live, and pushes the all important button for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.25 Casualty. Connie needs to prove her love for Grace, but has little time, and singer Hannah Spearritt returns as the mugger who attacked Noel, this time mixed up in a drugs deal.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.35 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Gabby Logan presents action from the latest FA Cup fifth-round ties, including Arsenal v Hull City at Emirates Stadium, and Watford v Leeds United at Vicarage Road.

11.35 Film: Shanghai Noon. (2000) A 19th-century imperial guard to the Emperor of China is flung into the Wild West on a mission to rescue a kidnapped princess. Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **7.00 Film:** This Land is Mine. (1943) **8.40 Film:** The Deadly Companions. (1961) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Lobo: The Wolf That Changed America. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **3.30** Earth's Greatest Spectacles. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Back in Time for the Weekend. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. The older members of the platoon are threatened with being made air-raid wardens, so they take drastic action in a bid to appear younger – with Mainwaring even wearing a toupee. Comedy first aired in 1972, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn. (R)

7.00 Film: Cast Away. (2000) A manager for an American courier service has to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone on a desert island. Initially panic-stricken, he overcomes his terror to survive for four years on his own before building a raft and setting off on an epic journey back home. Adventure drama, starring Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt, Nick Searcy, Lari White and Chris Noth.

9.15 Kipling's Indian Adventure. Ex-soldier and author Patrick Hennessey follows the journey the 16-year-old Rudyard Kipling made to India in 1882. Retracing Kipling's voyage from Lahore in modern-day Pakistan to the north Indian hill station of Simla, known as the summer capital of British India, Hennessey explores how the young author's encounters with various rulers, officers, subalterns – and the common-folk they ruled – came to inform his Nobel Prize-winning literature.

10.15 Live at the Apollo. Russell Kane comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Roisin Conaty and Nick Helm. (R)

11.00 Film: The Ides of March. (2011) A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Ryan Gosling.

12.35 Film: Surviving Summer. (2009) **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.35** Tipping Point. (R) **3.35** The Chase. (R) **4.35** Regional Programme : Weather.**4.45** ITV News; Weather. **5.00 Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Premiere. A reformed criminal mastermind who has abandoned his wicked ways for a life of fatherhood and jam-making helps a secret agent to bring one of his fellow evil geniuses to justice. The villain in question has stolen a dangerous experimental serum with the power to turn harmless animals into ravening monsters. Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The presenter duo return with their live entertainment show, with Michael Sheen serving as guest announcer, and Wet Wet Wet taking part in tonight's Singalong Live.

8.30 Take Me Out. An athlete from Birmingham, a mechanic from Edinburgh, a Bedfordshire-based golfing coach and a potato-farmer from Co Down seek to win over Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. Twilight Saga and Cuckoo star Taylor Lautner joins Jonathan in the studio, along with comedy actor and broadcaster Rob Brydon, and Australian-born UK tennis star Johanna Konta, who made headlines back in January as she became the first female British player to reach a Grand Slam's quarter-finals since 1984.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Nutty Professor II: The Klumps. (2000) Bumbling scientist Sherman Klump tries to rid himself of his troublesome alter ego Buddy Love, but his experiment backfires. Comedy sequel, with Eddie Murphy.

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Frostgun Invitational. **7.05** Freeride World Tour. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Wincanton. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Suffolk is hosted by anti-social behaviour officer Rachel, who hopes to win over her guests with an evening of comfort food and a few tricks up her sleeve. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales journey along the "London Ring", as it's known to narrowboat lovers, in a voyage of discovery through their home city. Starting in Brentford, they follow the Union Canal, and then the Regent's Canal until it meets the Thames at Limehouse. Along the way, they meet up with fellow actors Andrew Sachs and Ian McKellen, and visit the cemetery at Kensal Green, where their old friend, playwright Harold Pinter, is buried. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. The actress learns about life in Cumbria, explores areas including Coniston, Morecambe Bay and Grasmere, and meets a community buying a local mountain.

9.00 Film: RoboCop. (2014) Premiere. A corporation that creates military robots seizes a chance to diversify into law enforcement when a Detroit cop is critically injured in a bombing. He is rebuilt as a crime-fighting cyborg, but struggles to regain his free will from his creators' control. Sci-fi thriller remake, starring Joel Kinnaman.

11.20 Film: Apocalypto. (2006) A Mayan tribesman captured for human sacrifice escapes into the jungle in a bid to save his family. Mel Gibson's historical adventure, starring Rudy Youngblood.

1.50 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Two agents get caught up in a dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to move out, while on the south coast, debt collection from a Turkish restaurant gets complicated. (R)

7.00 World War II in Colour. The Allied forces' preparations for the Normandy landings, including their attempts to fool the Germans into thinking the main attack would be in the Pas de Calais. (R)

7.55 The Gadget Show. Jason Bradbury, Amy Williams, Ortis Deley and Jon Bentley report from CES in Las Vegas, the world's largest consumer tech show, revealing the must-have gadgets of 2016. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the Championship, including Cardiff City v Brighton & Hove Albion and Brentford v Derby County.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, including Barnsley v Doncaster Rovers and Barnet v AFC Wimbledon.

10.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler are faced with a dilemma when a child abuse suspect offers to reveal the identity of a controversial civil rights group's leader in exchange for an amnesty. (R)

11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A couple are found murdered in a truck, prompting the detectives to investigate a Mexican drug cartel linked to one of the victims – but the case proves more complex than expected. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 How Earth Made Us **8.00** The Inca: Masters of the Clouds **9.00** Trapped **10.40** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **11.40** Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **1.05** The Joy of Easy Listening **2.35** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.15** Sounds of the Eighties **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.05 Ninja Warrior UK **12.10** Scorpion **1.05 Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **3.05 Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **4.50** Catchphrase **5.35 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.45 Film:** After Earth (2013) **9.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.45** Ibiza Weekender **11.45** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.20 Film:** Scary Movie V (2013) **1.55** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **2.45** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes **3.55** Bertie and Elizabeth **6.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Man About the House **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Storage Wars **11.25** Storage Wars: Texas **1.25** Storage Wars **2.20 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **4.15 Film:** Superman (1978) **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00 Film:** Collateral Damage (2002) **11.10 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.30 Film:** Child's Play 2 (1990) **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 The Goldbergs **12.30** Rude(ish) Tube **1.30** The Jump **3.00 Film:** Furry Vengeance (2010) **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Virtually Famous **2.15** The Inbetweeners **3.05** The IT Crowd **3.55** New Girl **4.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.40** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **1.00** Step Up 3 (2010) **3.10** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **5.05** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **7.10** Just Married (2003) **9.00** About a Boy (2002) A womaniser who poses as a father to meet single women changes his ways after befriending a lonely youngster. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Toni Collette and Nicholas Hoult. **11.00** The Man with the Iron Fists (2012) Martial arts adventure, starring RZA. **12.50** Sinister (2012) **3.05** Close

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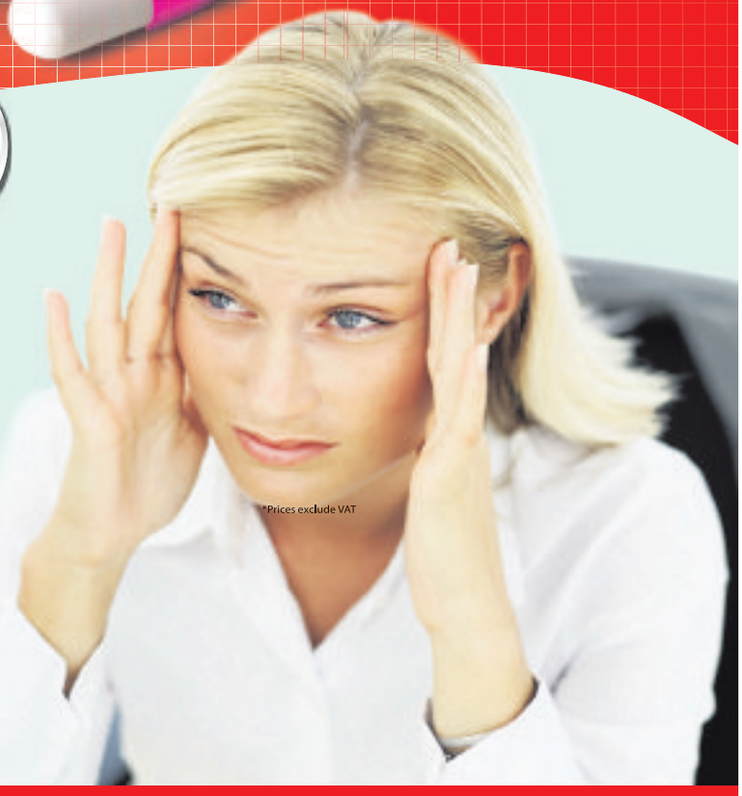

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CHOICE

Tom Hiddleston

The Night Manager (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Adaptation of John Le Carre's novel, starring Tom Hiddleston, Olivia Colman and Hugh Laurie. A former soldier working in a Cairo hotel discovers evidence against international arms dealer Richard Roper, but his attempt to help British intelligence to capture the criminal has disastrous consequences. Five years later, he is based in Switzerland, working at a hotel that he discovers is regularly frequented by Roper. Determined to make amends for his previous failure, he reunites with his contact at British intelligence and they form a plan to infiltrate the arms dealer's inner circle.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.00** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Songs of Praise. **1.50** Lifeline. **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) **3.30** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Chelsea v Manchester City (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.00 BBC News.

6.15 Regional Programme.

6.25 Dickensian. Arthur visits Fagin and acquires the services of Bill Sikes in the hope he can put a stop to the wedding, while Compeyson makes a heartfelt confession to Amelia. Last in the series.

7.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore Staffordshire, visiting a farming school and a barn owl reserve. Plus, a report on a possible treatment for an incurable tree disease. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Poplar is rocked by a series of violent attacks on women, and a prostitute is too ashamed to report what she knows – but her actions lead to a dangerous man roaming the streets, with devastating consequences for the residents of Nonnatus House. A mother tries to keep her daughter's pregnancy a secret to avoid gossip, putting her life in danger. The Turners go on a long overdue holiday, but the weather ruins their plans.

9.00 The Night Manager. New series. Adaptation of John Le Carre's novel, starring Tom Hiddleston. A former soldier has a chance encounter with an arms dealer, and helps British intelligence to capture him.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's fifth-round fixtures, which were Blackburn Rovers v West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace, and Chelsea v Manchester City.

11.15 The Super League Show: World Club Series Special. Tanya Arnold presents action from the World Club Series, featuring three matches.

12.00 Film: The Walker. (2007) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.05** An Island Parish. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15 Film:** Nicholas and Alexandra. (1971) Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael Jayston. **3.15** Flog It! (R) **3.45** Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 MOTD: FA Cup 6th Round Draw. Mark Chapman presents coverage of the quarter-final draw, as the remaining eight clubs learn who they will face, with a Wembley semi-final awaiting the winners.

6.20 Film: I Am Number Four. (2011) A teenager with special powers is forced to live as a fugitive, constantly moving from place to place with his protector to avoid aliens who seek to destroy him. His nomadic existence is threatened when he falls in love, just as he begins to realise the origin of his extraordinary abilities. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant and Teresa Palmer.

8.00 Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Nick Jenkins, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman and Sarah Willingham cast their eyes over more business ideas, including a recipe for ice cream that is healthier than fruit and a new design of headphones that does not cover the wearer's ears. Plus, a barrister gets a lesson in margins. Last in the series.

9.00 Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016. New series. Gabby Logan hosts the pro-celebrity tournament in aid of charity. The first rounds pit Greg Davies against Jordan Stephens and Mike Tindall against Katherine Ryan.

10.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Fact-based crime drama about the trial of former American football star and actor OJ Simpson for the murders of his wife and her friend. Cuba Gooding Jr stars. (R)

10.55 Film: Memento. (2000) A man searches for his wife's killer in spite of the short-term memory loss he sustained during the same attack. Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Guy Pearce.

12.45 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) **3.05** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **4.00** Holby City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.40** Catchphrase. (R) **3.40 Film:** Live and Let Die. (1973) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Planet's Got Talent. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring a water-skiing squirrel, a stunt driver and a multi-talented beat boxer.

7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Slean prepares for his wedding to Kela, but an unexpected development proves more than he can cope with. Abrecan's fixation on Herot leads him to neglect his own people.

8.00 Vera. A fisherman's body is found tangled up in a North Sea trawler's net. Vera and her team investigate with the help of the local harbourmaster, and find the dead man's sons pointing the finger at the owner of a fish market, with whom they have a long-running feud. Retracing the dead man's steps, Vera discovers when he drowned and tracks down a waitress who may have been one of the last people to see him alive. However, the case becomes more complicated when a witness runs away and a boat belonging to the dead man's sister-in-law goes up in flames. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Rookies. Mark is called to help a man who has been attacked with a baseball bat, while Dan attends a near-fatal stabbing during his first solo shift. Last in the series. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **2.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.05 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement. (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.50 Film:** Dumbo. (1941) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Edward Brophy.

7.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo. Documentary revealing the secret life of the animals of Chester Zoo, one of Britain's most popular zoos, using new micro-rig technology to capture the behaviour of the animals and their close relationships with their keepers. In the first episode, the zoo's Asian elephant family welcome a new arrival. Grumpy matriarch Thi has been pregnant for almost two years and is reaching the end of her tether. She's given birth to a stillborn baby in the past, so the keepers have a close eye on her. Cameras also follow Red panda Jung, who has been getting the cold shoulder from his partner Nima since they had two cubs. (R)

8.00 The Jump. Davina McCall presents another bout of winter sports action, as the remaining contestants compete in a mogul skiing event. The loser from each race will then have to face the jump, with one of them being eliminated from the competition.

9.00 Film: The World's End. (2013) Premiere. A 40-year-old man who refuses to grow up drags four reluctant childhood friends back to their home town to recreate a pub crawl they attempted in their teens. As they work their way round the 12 local bars, they stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

11.10 Film: The Eagle. (2011) A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

1.10 Embarrassing Bodies: The 36-Stone Woman. (R) **2.05** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30 Film:** The 'Burbs. (1989) Black comedy, starring Tom Hanks. **4.30** 5 News Weekend. **4.35 Film:** The Money Pit. (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long.

6.20 Film: The Fox and the Hound. (1981) An orphaned fox cub is taken in by a kindly widow, and becomes firm friends with a puppy belonging to a hunter. However, as they grow to adulthood, the dog is trained to prey on foxes, and the two animals realise their friendship may not survive as they are expected to be natural enemies. Animated adventure, with the voices of Mickey Rooney and Kurt Russell. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.

8.00 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.

10.05 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Part of Channel 5 80s Day. (R)

12.50 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Great Scientists. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Jigs & Wigs: The Extreme World of Irish Dancing **8.00** Andre Previn at the BBC **9.00** Storyville: The Black Panthers **10.45 Film:** Easy Money III: Life Deluxe (2013) **12.40** Troubadours: The Rise of the Singer-Songwriter **2.05** Sounds of the Eighties **2.35** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.00** Best of You've Been Framed! Gold **3.05 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.05** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.40 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00 Film:** Delivery Man (2013) **12.10 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 Bertie and Elizabeth **1.40** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **2.45** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes **3.55** Lewis **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant **9.00** Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India **10.00** Mrs Biggs **11.00 Film:** The Bucket List (2007) **1.00** Ghostboat **2.20** A Touch of Frost **4.05** On the Buses **5.00** Judge Judy **5.25** Movies Now **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.40 Counting Cars **12.35** The Classic Car Show **1.35 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **3.30 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **6.15 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **11.10 Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.15** Ax Men **2.10** The Car Chasers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002) **2.35** The Goldbergs **3.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.05** The Inbetweeners **1.10** The IT Crowd **2.10** The 100 **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Magic in the Water (1995) **1.00** The Legend of Zorro (2005) **3.45** Beaches (1988) **6.15** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **9.00** The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (2013) A teenager discovers she is part of a race of magical beings tasked with defending the world from demons. Fantasy adventure, with Lily Collins. **11.35** The Crazies (2010) **1.35** Feast of Love (2007) **3.45** Close

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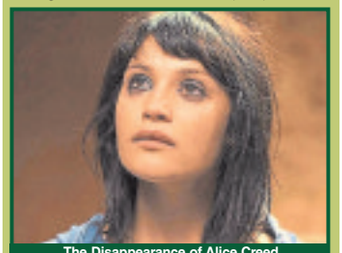
FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Righteous Kill, Channel 5, 10.55pm
Two veteran New York detectives are assigned the case of a murdered pimp. They realise they are dealing with a vigilante dishing out lethal punishment to those who have escaped the justice system, and as more dead criminals are found, they suspect the killer may be a fellow cop. Crime thriller, starring Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Carla Gugino, John Leguizamo and Donnie Wahlberg. (2008)

TUESDAY
Honor Student, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A writer is confronted by an ex-convict he once taught as part of a prison education programme, who accuses him of stealing her idea for a novel. Obsessed with revenge, she plans to murder him - but first she intends to make him suffer by ruining his reputation and destroying his marriage. Thriller, starring Josie Loren and Niall Matter. (2014)



The Disappearance of Alice Creed, Friday, BBC2, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY
The Lookout, BBC1, 11.45pm
A teenager's promising future is cut short when a car crash leaves him with brain damage that affects his memory. Taking a job as a janitor at a bank, he falls under the influence of crooks led by a former school friend. However, as he becomes aware of their plan to pull off a robbery, he makes a desperate attempt to stop them. Drama, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Jeff Daniels and Isla Fisher. (2007)

THURSDAY
Stolen from the Womb, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A psychotic stalker gives a pregnant woman a labour-inducing drug, before kidnapping her newborn child . Drama inspired by true events, starring Larisa Oleynik, Laura Mennell and Sebastian Spence. (2014)

FRIDAY
The Disappearance of Alice Creed, BBC2, 11.35pm
Two criminals kidnap the daughter of a wealthy family, with the intention of demanding a ransom. However, the hostage is not the helpless victim she appears, while she and both her captors have secrets that threaten to throw the plan into disorder. Thriller, with Gemma Arterton and Martin Compston. (2009)

Stars are out to shine at star-studded bash

The Brits returns to the O2 tonight to bring us a much-needed annual dose of music industry glitter, awkward award presentation and headline-generating performances during the dark days of British winter.

Tonight's headline act is Rihanna, who is back to perform for the fourth time, following the long-awaited release of her eighth album, ANTI.

It's likely that she'll perform her smash-hit single, Work, which topped of the charts in 90 countries.

For the Barbadian singer, it'll give her an opportunity to warm up before her world tour returns to the UK in June; and for her fans, it's the first Brit Awards performance since 2012, when she blew the crowd away with a rendition of We Found Love.

British songstress Adele was the first act to be named on this year's bill, which was considered quite a coup for the organisers.

Back in 2011, she performed a spine-tingling version of Someone Like You, but the year after she made headlines for swearing at "the suits" who forced host James Corden to cut her speech short, largely because Blur had bumbled around on stage before her.

Fresh from their half-time show alongside Beyonce at the Superbowl earlier this month, Coldplay will also be performing.

Chris Martin and co have suggested that their new album, A Head Full of Dreams, may be their last.

But, as they proved in a barnstorming London gig earlier this year, the record sounds as good live as any of their previous work.

Having recently beaten The Beatles' record for having the most singles in the UK top 40 at any one time, Canadian singer Justin Bieber is also sure to to be a hit with the Brits crowd.

There will also be performances from Jess Glynne, who rose to success in 2014 after being featured on Clean Bandit's single Rather Be, and James Bay, who won the Critics Choice Award 2015.

Canadian singer-cum-producer The Weeknd and 2011 X-Factor winners Little Mix will also be on stage.

Finally, there will a touching tribute to the much-missed David Bowie following his death on January 10.

Bowie was a two-time Brit winner and became the oldest recipient of the Best British Male Solo Artist award two years ago. On the awards front, Adele leads the pack with four nominations for the newly designed trophies.

She will be battling it out for the coveted Album of the Year award alongside Coldplay, Florence + the Machine, James Bay and Jamie XX.

The presenters of the Brits is always a big issue, and we seem to reminisce every year, who can forget Samantha Fox and Mick Fleetwood?

Thankfully this year's ceremony is in good hands as it will be fronted by last year's hosts Ant and Dec.

About returning, the pair said: "We really loved hosting the show last year.

"In all honesty we only intended to do it for one year but had such a good time we are thrilled to be doing it again.

"We had a great night, enjoyed a glass of champagne or two! So this year… more of the same!"

Ant and Dec host, The Brit Awards 2016, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Fresh Meat
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. The comedy returns for a fourth and final series, with the prospect of the real world looming large for the student housemates. JP's brother pays an unexpected visit and tells him it is time to knuckle down, while Howard has created a secret revision den in the cellar. Meanwhile, Oregon attempts to win a prestigious scholarship in America, Vod comes up with a scheme to help with her money troubles, and Kingsley is on the lookout for love, but possibly in all the wrong places.

Cuckoo
BBC1, 10.45pm
After the first series in 2012 the departure of Andy Samberg initially looked to be the end of the line for this show, one of BBC Three's most successful sitcoms. However the writers pulled of a Cuckoo coup when they recruited Taylor Lautner to fill the big-name American gap in season two. This third series opener picks up six months after Dale's dramatic departure during the 2014 Christmas special, and Rachel is still heartbroken, but she has managed to salvage a friendship with her jilted former fiancé Ben. However, just as life is about to return to normal in the Thompson household, a transformed Dale returns from China to shake things up again. Meanwhile, Ken and Lorna are preparing for the birth of their unplanned baby, and son Dylan gets ready to leave for university.

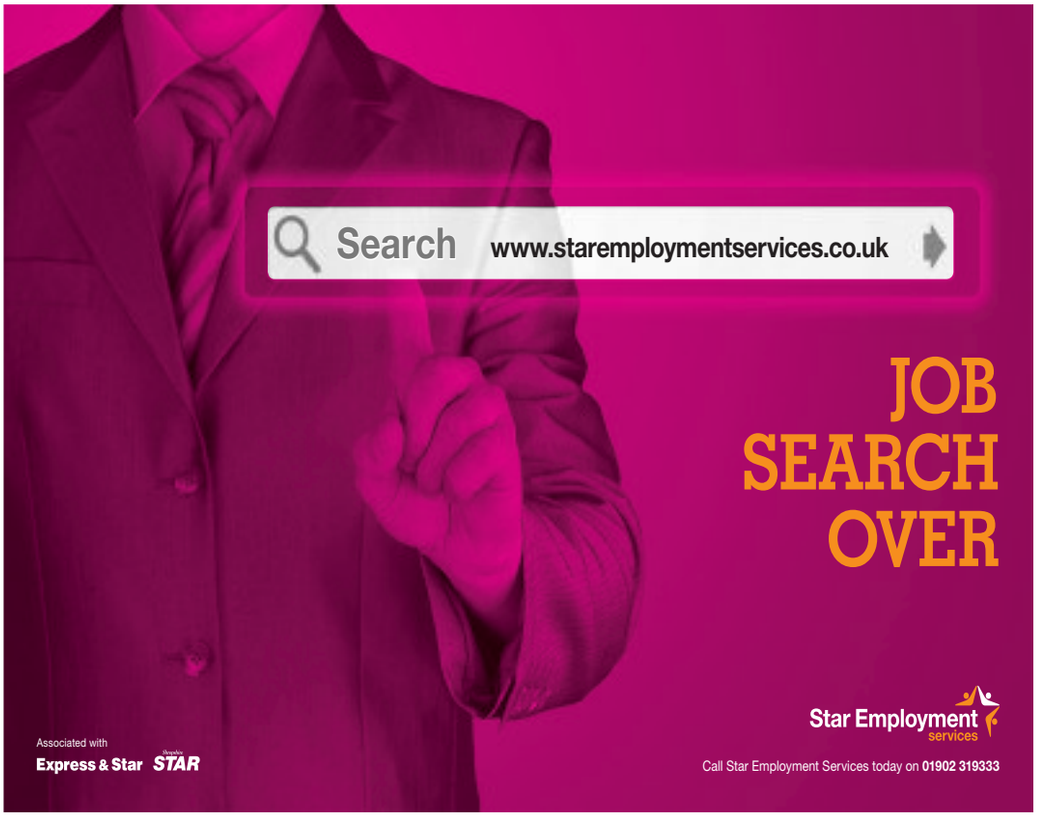
TUESDAY
The Inspectors Are Coming
ITV, 7.30pm
Cameras follow UK law enforcement teams, beginning in Cleethorpes where beach inspectors struggle with their new powers to fine as it goes against their usual laid back style. In Dumfries and Galloway, experienced law enforcers Erin and Jim are dishing out £80 penalties to anyone caught dropping a cigarette butt. Meanwhile, in the London borough of Newham, John and Terry face one of their busiest nights ever – could they be about to beat their record for the most number of noise complaints?

WEDNESDAY
The Great Sport Relief Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm
Sarah Millican hosts as actress Alison Steadman, comedian Ade Edmondson, singer Will Young and impressionist Morgana Robinson bake for Sport Relief. They must face three challenges set by judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry, with the overall winner receiving the coveted Star Baker Apron. For the signature challenge, they must create an open-top pie, before attempting to make a salmon roulade in the technical. Finally, the celebrities must use cupcakes to create a showstopper representing a momentous life experience. Last in the series.

The Great Sport Relief Bake Off, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

THURSDAY
The Great British Sex Survey
Channel 4, 10pm
So much for ëno sex please, we're British' – Channel 4 has discovered via a specially commissioned survey that UK residents are very much in touch with their sexuality. This programme takes a closer look at the results, revealing the nation's top 10 kinks and lifting the lid on some surprising practices. Experts, including psychotherapist Philippa Perry and Belgian sexologist Goedele Liekens, explore where unusual sexual desires come from, and investigate why some people only need a come-hither look to get them going, while others require something a little more elaborate. The Great British Sex survey also asks just what convinced us to shed our repressed image and start unbuttoning, and hears from the ordinary people who get up to extraordinary things in the bedroom.

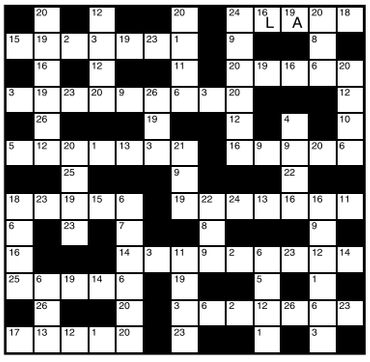
FRIDAY
Comedy Playhouse: Hospital People
BBC1, 10.35pm
The BBC's revived Comedy Playhouse strand is back with three new pilots, all hoping to becoming fully fledged sitcoms. We'll soon see Alun Armstrong and Alison Steadman in Broken Biscuits, written by Early Doors creators Craig Cash and Phil Mealey, while Nigel Havers and Sarah Hadland are teaming up for Jack Docherty's Stop/Start, but we begin with Hospital People. The mockumentary follows a group of characters united by the fact that their lives revolve around the local hospital – and that they are all played by co-writer Tom Binns. His creations include manager Susan Mitchell, spiritualist porter Ian D Montfort, and someone who will be familiar to fans of Binns' stand-up, deluded DJ Ivan Brackenbury.



BRAIN GYM No.365

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16 L
4	17
5	18
6	19 A
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	B	E	G	S	L	U	O	I	P	Z	M	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	J	N	R	Q	D	W	Y	H	T	A	C	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

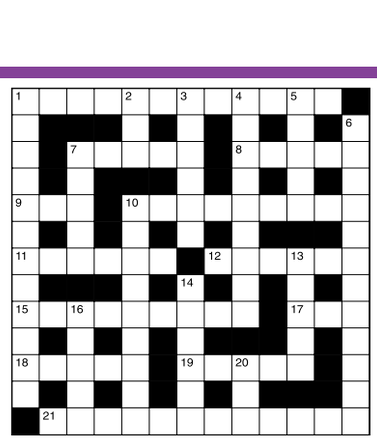
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Mislay a Gilbert and Sullivan opera and get annoyed (4,8)
7. Widespread alarm of a hundred getting shocking pain (5)
8. See 9 Across
9,19 & 8Ac. Presumably no cold-blooded pursuer would be! (3,2.3.5)
10. Ineffective description of a broken pencil (9)
11. Northern shaft difficult to squeeze through (6)
12. Has no further use for fragments (6)
15. Backer to drink strong ale (9)
17. Fabulous winger to show back of stability, we hear (3)
18. Elegant dresser found in Scotland and Yorkshire (5)
19. See 9 Across
21. They conduct the fans to hearten the chiefs (5-7)

Down

1. Port, nautically speaking (4-4,4)
2. See 7 Down
3. In the first act I contrived a crafty manoeuvre (6)
4. Conveyance for the landed gentry? (6,3)
5. Charles goes to the end of the lane in pursuit (5)
6. The direct opposite of open revelations? (5,7)
7 & 2Dn. Darlings were abducted by him (5,3)
10. Professional to use the office machine - an original model (9)
13. Shocking rage before the end of the debate, but don't fall out (5)
14. Constitutional street register (6)
16. Misappropriate as nippers do (5)
20. Drink for most of the side (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Uneasy (12)
7. Put off (5)
8. Fire-raising (5)
9. Recede (3)
10. Isolate (9)
11. Wearisome (6)
12. Diversion (6)
15. Incessant (9)
17. Immerse (3)
18. Heading (5)
19. Object (5)
21. Formula (12)

Down

1. Genuineness (12)
2. Consume (3)
3. Anger (6)
4. Amorphous (9)
5. Prospect (5)
6. Stoppage (12)
7. Exclude (5)
10. Idiotic (9)
13. Command (5)
14. Seller (6)
16. Change (5)
20. Chart (3)

Sudoku

2		8		1				
		9			6	8		
	1		3	8			9	5
				4	1			
1		4			9	7		3
			7	2				
	8			9	5		7	
	4	6	1			5		
5				6		1		8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	2	9	6	1	3	5	4
3	6	1	7	4	5	8	9	2
9	4	5	2	8	3	6	1	7
5	2	3	4	7	6	9	8	1
6	1	4	5	9	8	7	2	3
7	8	9	1	3	2	4	6	5
2	3	8	6	5	4	1	7	9
4	5	7	8	1	9	2	3	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	5	4	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Abandon; 8 Hot dog; 9 Balmier; 10 Retain; 11 Keeper; 12 Parental; 18 Organist; 20 Career; 21 Slight; 22 Copious; 23 Repeal; 24 Wealthy. Down: 1 Therapy; 2 Stature; 3 Motion; 5 Blackleg; 6 Number; 7 Obeyed; 13 Thorough; 14 Ringlet; 15 Stately; 16 Parole; 17 Denial; 19 Asleep. QUICK - Across: 4 Halfway; 8 Brutal; 9 Affront; 10 Object; 11 Uproar; 12 Vicarage; 18 Interval; 20 Debase; 21 Fondle; 22 Several; 23 Pistol; 24 Feather. Down: 1 Absolve; 2 Subject; 3 Cancer; 5 Affluent; 6 Furore; 7 Annual; 13 Alienate; 14 Avidity; 15 Elderly; 16 Severe; 17 Patent; 19 Exotic.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Where is the seat of the U.N. International Court of Justice?
2. What branch of the arts do you associate with Jean Ingres?
3. How many popes have been called Leo?
4. Which body of water separates Italy from Sicily?
5. Of which country was Milton Obote president?
6. What is pinchbeck?
7. Who founded Singapore in 1819?
8. What does the Russian word samovar mean?
9. Of which country was Mario Soares made president in 1986?
10. Where was the liner Queen Elizabeth destroyed by fire in 1972?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The scar left by a healed wound; 2 1968; 3 Hokkaido; 4 Saigon; 5 French; 6 Cantilever; 7 El Cid; 8 112; 9 1972; 10 15 million.

Niner: CURTAINED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7393 gives a game,
241182 gives a second game,
23456827 gives a third game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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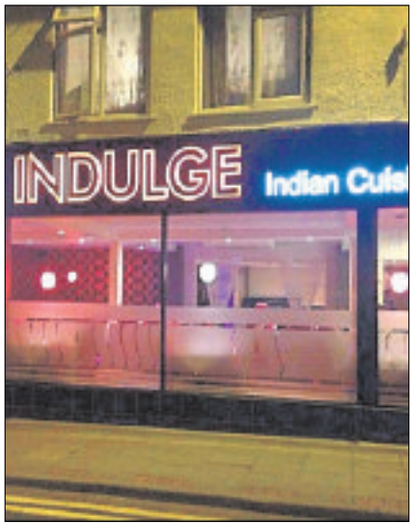
Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, February 18, 2016

Shahin Ahmed, second from left, with his waiting staff and cookery team

The tender lamb shank was beautifully cooked

The plush interior of Indulge restaurant, Cannock Road, Chadsmoor



Indulge is coming up to its second birthday

Take time to Indulge in popular area's new restaurant on block

WITH a cluster of Indian restaurants in such a small area, competition is fierce. But why not Indulge in the new kid on the block?

Indulge, on Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, has gone through a number of incarnations over the years. However, just shy of its second birthday, it has already lasted longer than any of its predecessors – and has risen up the Trip Advisor rankings.

Of all the eateries in the Cannock Chase area, Indulge is the second highest ranked Indian restaurant.

Unsurprisingly, proprietor Shahin Ahmed, otherwise known as Raj, is proud of the achievements of himself and his staff, and points to the quality of its food and service, as well as the hard work that has gone into the business for its success.

By Mark Shipp

"Things are really picking up and we are very happy at how things are going," he said, adding that the support and feedback from customers was inspiring them to grow even further.

Raj believes the introduction of Sunday five-course set meals, at £8.95, and Tuesday and Wednesday eat-as-much-as-you like gourmet nights at £9.95 have also gone some way towards its new-found status.

It's a very easy restaurant to spot, so the lack of success under previous guises is hard to fathom.

It's certainly plush inside, with 110 covers, though it does look as though it could hold more.

And here's a twist. If you fancy a private function, you can have the back room – complete with dance floor, to yourselves – and with your own choice of images projected on to the wall.

The restaurant is not licensed, so we took our own alcohol.

Food prices are generous and there is an extensive list of Chef's Exclusive dishes and House Specials. And if variety is the spice of life, someone had better tell my other half, for whom there is no need to even offer a menu. "If they don't have butter chicken or makhani chicken, I'm not going in, " she might as well say . . .

Fuss

They did, indeed, have butter chicken, so that's one happy customer to start with.

It was straightforward choice from our dining companion, too – but then when does a teenage girl ever make a fuss? At least she pored through what was on offer before deciding on her favourite tikka masala.

We were treated to a special platter starter to begin with, including chicken pakora, korahi kebab and moglai chicken – the latter, chicken marinated with garam masala and yoghurt and cooked with pepper, onions and garlic, was divine, but then so was the unexpected lamb shank we were served ahead of our starters.

Of course, there was little room for much else, but I still had to try my sea bass jhall fry main course. The fish was beautifully cooked and it had a hidden kick to it. But mixed with the lemon rice accompaniment it was the perfect blend for the palate.

Indulge is closed on Mondays, except for Bank Holidays, Opening hours are from 5.30pm-11pm. Special offers are available to mark its second year anniversary on March 15.

For more details, or to book a table at Indulge, call 01543 500771.

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The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

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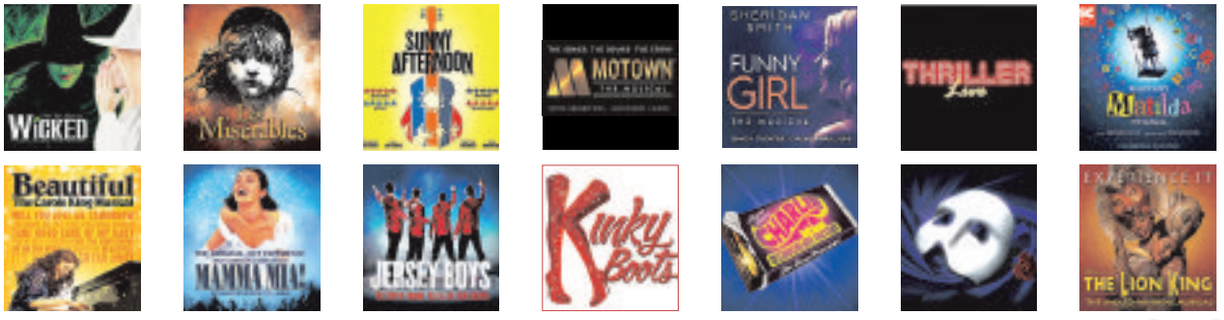
Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149.95

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.95

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

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Well-presented three-bed home – no chain involved

A TRADITIONAL home that has been modernised over recent years, 31 Goldthorn Crescent, Penn is well presented, being for sale through Rees Page at £184,000 with no chain.

There are three reception rooms, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms and a boarded attic, it also has a driveway and rear garden and is in a cul-de-sac.

The three reception rooms comprise study/play room with cupboards, dining room, lounge with a bay window and French doors opening out to the rear and a modern fireplace with a gas fire. The modernised kitchen/diner has a cooker, tiled splash-backs and tiled flooring.

The landing has access to the boarded attic with wooden flooring and Velux windows. For further information contact Rees Page on 01902 577775 or visit www.reespage.com

Spacious detached in sought after area

A FOUR-BEDROOMED detached property is in a sought after location in Birchwood Close, Essington

With three of its bedrooms being double and a large kitchen, it is for sale through Goodchilds at £349,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a spacious, main living room with patio doors, second reception room with an archway through to a dining area.

The kitchen has space for a large American-style fridge freezer and there is a utility room and conservatory. One of the bedrooms has a Juliet balcony.

For further information contact Goodchilds on 01902 267111 or visit the website at www.goodchilds-uk.com

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524 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley	11.45 pm	11.45 pm
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LOT 1

8 CLARENCE ROAD, BILSTON, WV14 6NZ
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached house
- Four bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- EPC rating D (63)

GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£80,000

LOT 2

ROSE COTTAGE, 73 HEATH GAP ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 6DS
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Detached house
- Requires comprehensive refurbishment
- Three bedooms
- Part gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating F (35)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000-£80,000

LOT 3

LAND ADJ. 29 BROWNHILLS ROAD, NORTON CANES, WS11 9SD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Parcel of Freehold land
- Located with village of Norton Canes
- Potential for residential development (subject to planning permission being obtained)
- Currently with detached garage

GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £80,000

LOT 4

LAND REAR OF 374 CEMETERY ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 4AY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Good sized building plot in popular residential area
- Frontage 9.74m or thereabouts
- Depth 32.00m or thereabouts
- Area 312 m² of thereabouts

GUIDE PRICE £38,000+

LOT 5

BUILDING PLOT ADJ. 3 HUNTERS RIDE, STAFFORD, ST17 9HU
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Building plot having Planning Permission for erection of one three bedroomed detached house
- Width at building line - 7.2m (23ft 7ins) Approx
- Maximum depth - 32m (104ft 11ins) Approx
- Area - 240m (287 sq yards) or thereabouts

GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000

LOT 6

BUILDING PLOT KNOWN AS PILLATON FARM CATTERY, PILLATON, STAFFORD ST19 5RZ
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- An outstanding individual building plot
- Having benefit of planning permission for single residential property
- Total plot area 0.66 of an acre or thereabouts
- Located in rural greenbelt position
- Ripe for early development

GUIDE PRICE £200,000-£250,000

LOT 7

189 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV2 4QB
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Substantial end terraced house
- Lounge and dining room
- Conservatory/sun lounge
- Three bedrooms
- Off road parking
- Predominantly double glazed
- Convenient for Wolverhampton City Centre
- EPC rating E (52)

GUIDE PRICE £125,000+

LOT 8

PASTURE LAND FRONTING RUGELEY ROAD, CHASE TERRACE, BURNTWOOD, WS15 4RX
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Irregular shaped parcel of pasture land
- Extending to 1.71 Acres or thereabouts and having a frontage to Redmoor Brook in the North
- Conveniently located for access to Gentleshaw Common

GUIDE PRICE £10,000

LOT 9

BUILDING PLOT ADJ. HORSEFAIR COTTAGE, 90 BELLBROOK, PENKRIDGE, ST19 5DL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Rare opportunity to acquire a good sized individual building plot
- Planning permission for erection of one 3/4 bedroomed detached residence
- Occupying elevated position
- Located in conservation area of Penkridge

GUIDE PRICE £150,000-£175,000

LOT 10

CHERITON, 524 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYLREY, WS6 6HX
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Predominantly double glazed
- In need of refurbishment
- Larger gardens
- EPC rating F (26)

GUIDE PRICE £160,000-£170,000

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Wolverhampton

BRAND NEW LUXURY CUL DE SAC

PENN, WARSTONES ROAD — **from £230,000**

PART EXCHANGE & EASY MOVER OPTIONS AVAILABLE

A SUPERB BRAND NEW DEVELOPMENT OF LUXURY HOMES SET IN A SMALL EXCLUSIVE CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION OFFERING FLEXIBLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION AT ITS BEST! These wonderful 3 & 4 bedroom homes require viewing to appreciate. HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE. EPC rating TBC.

CHAPELWOOD, RICHES STREET — POA

NEW HOME

BRAND NEW LUXURY HOMES 4,5 & 6 BEDROOMS

"COMING SOON" A fantastic selection of 9 brand new luxury detached homes offering outstanding living accommodation at its best! 4, 5 & 5 (plus study) bedroom homes are available with 3 or 4 bathrooms/en-suites.

PENN, RUTLAND AVENUE — £210,000

"A LOVELY & EXTENDED DETACHED HOME SITUATED IN A PLEASANT & POPULAR PART OF PENN" Comprising 20ft lounge diner, dining room, fitted kitchen with adjoining breakfast room, utility, wc, feature conservatory, three generous bedrooms, shower room, off road parking, rear garden & garage to side. EPC rating C

BRAND NEW LUXURY CUL DE SAC

OFF BIRMINGHAM NEW RD, MONMORE GDNS From £129,995

HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE

"A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A SELECTION OF BRAND NEW HOMES CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY COMMUTERS. These pleasant brand new two & three bedroom homes are available to purchase from plan now! EPC rating TBC.

PENN HANBURY CRESCENT — £240,000

"PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE AND DELIGHTFULLY DECORATED IS THIS EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY IN THE PENN AREA" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility rooms, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, panel enclosed rear garden, garage. EPC rating E

PENN MASON CRESCENT — £240,000

"AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A LUXURIOUS 3 BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCALITY & SURPRISINGLY SPACIOUS THROUGHOU!" Comprising - porch, entrance hall, ground floor cloak room, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, cconservatory 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage, off road parking. EPC rating D

PENN HOLLY GROVE — £210,000

"A HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE AND PARTIALLY SPACIOUS DOUBLE FRONTED THREE BEDROOM TRADITIONAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME!" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, dining room, kitchen diner, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, detached rear garage, off road parking, rear garden. EPC rating E.

OXLEY EUROPA GARDENS — £205,000

"A BEAUTIFUL SEMI DETACHED TOWN HOUSE COMES TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN!" Comprising - entrance hall, dining kitchen, lounge, downstairs wc, four good size bedrooms, two family bathrooms, en suite, garage to rear, off road parking, rear garden. EPC rating B.

PENN COTON ROAD — £190,000

"A TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW SET ON A GOOD SIZE PLOT IN A POPULAR LOCATION!" Comprising - entrance porch, entrance hall, ground floor cloak room, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage and rear garden. EPC rating D

CASTLECROFT CASTLECROFT AVENUE — £189,950

"THIS FABULOUS DETACHED PROPERTY COMES TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN & ENJOYS GENEROUS PROPORTIONED ROOMS" Comprising lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, handy downstairs wc, four bedrooms, family bathroom, private & enclosed rear garden, good size driveway, carport & garage. EPC rating D

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WEST PARK ALBERT ROAD — £230,000

"A HIGHLY IMPOSING THREE BEDROOM DETACHED RESIDENCE SET ON A CORNER PLOT AND BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN!" Comprising - ground floor cloak room, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, gardens and off road parking. EPC rating D

PERTON RICHMOND DRIVE — £225,000

"THIS FOUR BEDROOM EXTENDED DETACHED FAMILY HOME IS SITUATED IN THE SOUGHT AFTER PERTON AREA" Comprising entrance hall, downstairs cloak, lounge, dining area, extended kitchen diner, four bedrooms, (master en suite) bathroom, front & rear gardens, off road parking & garage. Energy rating D.

FINCHFIELD FINCHFIELD LANE — £190,000

"A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A 2 BEDROOM COTTAGE STYLE HOME IN THE SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION OF FINCHFIELD, DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS & READY TO MOVE INTO!" Comprising - entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, garage & rear garden. EPC rating D

WOMBOURNE JENKS ROAD — £190,000

"AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A FOUR BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN THE SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION OF WOMBOURNE!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge diner, dining area, fitted kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms, two shower rooms, off road parking, rear garden and garage. EPC rating C

ALBRIGHTON HIGH STREET — £180,000

"A TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT IN FANTASTIC CONDITION & READY TO MOVE INTO IN THE SOUGHT AFTER LOCALITY OF ALBRIGHTON!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom, allocated parking, communal gardens. EPC rating C

FINCHFIELD FINCHFIELD LANE — £179,950

"THIS TWO BEDROOM MODERN BARN CONVERSION IS PLACED IN THE SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION OF FINCHFIELD & IS IN READY TO MOVE INTO CONDITION!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, study, family bathroom, shared drive and off road parking. EPC rating D

WOLVERHAMPTON MERRIDALE AVENUE — £170,000

"THIS 5 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED TRADITIONAL PROPERTY IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF A FAMILY HOME OFFERING WELL PROPORTIONE AACCOMMODATI& BEING DEDECEPTIVELYPACIOUS" Comprising - hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, front & rear gardens, gated off road parking, garage. EPC rating E

PENDEFORD MILLWALK DRIVE — £170,000

"A RECENTLY REFURBISHED TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW IN A CUL DE SAC LOCATION WITH GARAGE TO REAR!" Comprising - entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, shower room, off road parking, garden and garage. EPC rating D

BILSTON CARLTON AVENUE — £169,999

"A SELECTION OF TWO BRAND NEW LUXURY DORMER BUNGALOWS SITUATED IN A PRIVATE CUL DE SAC!" Comprising - wonderful fitted kitchens, generous lounges, 2/3 bedrooms, fitted ground floor family bathroom, upstairs en suite, parking to front. THE HOMES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUY NOW OPTION! EPC rating TBC

MERRY HILL LANGLEY GARDENS — £169,950

"A CHAIN FREE WELL PRESENTED 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME SITUATED IN THIS POPULAR LOCATION" Comprising entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen diner, utility, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, garage, off road parking & pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D.

TETTENHALL DAVENPORT ROAD — £149,950

"A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO CHAIN IN THE SOUGHT AFTER TETTENHALL AREA" Comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, front & rear gardens. EPC rating E

PENN WESTBOURNE ROAD — £145,000

"POSITIONED IN THE HIGHLY DESIRABLE PENN AREA THIS THREE BEDROOM VICTORIA STYLE END OF TERRACE HOME HAS BEEN MAINTAINED TO A HIGH STANDARD & SET OVER THREE FLOORS" Comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, two first floor bedrooms & bathroom, second floor bedroom three & rear garden. EPC dating D

TETTENHALL CORNWALL ROAD — £140,000

"THREE BEDROOM TWO STOREY TOWN HOUSE IN A READY TO MOVE INTO CONDITION IN THE SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION OF TETTENHALL!" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and cabin. EPC rating C

PENN COTON ROAD — £140.000

"A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A CHARMING TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE THAT IS FULL OF CHARACTER AND A DELIGHT TO VIEW!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom, off road parking and shared rear garden. EPC rating E

CASTELCROFT CASTLECROFT ROAD — £135,000

"A MODERN 2 BEDROOM PENTHOUSE APARTMENT SET IN A GATED SECURE DEVELOPMENT IN A READY TO MOVE INTO CONDITION & OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN!" Comprising - entrance hall, open plan lounge kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, gated secure off road parking & communal gardens. EPC rating B

DUNSTALL GLENTWORTH GARDENS — From £125,000

"A BRAND NEW LUXURY DETACHED BUNGALOW (SEMI DETACHED ALSO AVAILABLE)" This pleasant property comprises lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedroom, fitted bathroom, front & rear gardens with off road parking. CONTACT 01902 710170. EPC rating TBC

TETTENHALL CORNWALL ROAD — £125,000

"A THREE BEDROOM TWO STOREY TOWN HOUSE WITH PLEASANT OUTLOOK OVER COMMUNAL GREEN ●●NO CHAIN●●" Comprising - entrance hall, ground floor cloak room, lounge through diner, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, fore & rear gardens, brick built tool shed. EPC rating TBC

LANESFIELD MOUNT ROAD — £110,000

"A SUPERBLY PRESENTED TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED STARTER HOME THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THE REAR & HAS A FANTASTIC SIZE REAR GARDEN" Comprising entrance porch, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, two good size bedroom, refitted bathroom & good size rear garden. EPC rating D

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Wednesfield

BRAND NEW LUXURY CUL DE SAC

WILLENHALL, OFF NOOSE LANE — **From £155,000**

HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE

Park Edge is a delightful brand new development of 3 & 4 bedroom detached, semi-detached and town house luxury homes. Conveniently located for Wednesfield & Willenhall shopping centres these outstanding homes require viewing to fully appreciate. CONTACT CONNELLS ON 01902 710170. EPC rating TBC

HOUSE & ADJOINING ANNEX

SLADE HEATH, OLD STAFFORD ROAD — **£479,999**

LARGE PLOT WITH BUILDING POTENTIAL

A CHARMING & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE DETACHED COTTAGE SET ON A GENEROUS PLOT WITH ADJOINING "ANNEX STYLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION & BUILD PLOT POTENTIAL" Four total bedrooms, 3 bathroom/shower rooms, 3 kitchens/utility, four reception rooms, DOUBLE DETACHED GARAGE & OUTBUILDINGS. EPC rating E

●●PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK●●

WILLENHALL, ST ANNES ROAD — **From £135,000**

HELP TO BUY OR PART EXCHANGE OPTIONS

FANTASTIC DEALS ARE AVAILABLE! "A brand new exclusive cul-de-sac development of 53 outstanding homes build by the AWARD WINNING developer Dunedin Homes. We are offering 2, 3, 4 & 6 bedroom detached, semi detached, town houses and apartments" HELP TO BUY & PART EXCHANGE OPTIONS. EPC rating TBC

ESSINGTON, HOUGH WAY — £350,000

"A CHAIN FREE SUPERB CORNER PLOT DETACHED RESIDENCE OFFERING OUTSTANDING LIVING ACCOMMODATION" Comprising - lounge, family dining kitchen, utility, 5 BEDROOMS, 3 bathrooms, double detached garage with remote gated secure parking, front, side & rear garden. EPC rating C

ESSINGTON, BOGNOP ROAD — £270,000

"A CHAIN FREE DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED 3 BEDROOM BARN CONVERSION. VIEWING IS HIGHLY ADVISED TO APPRECIATE THE SIZE OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER!" Comprising - hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, 3 bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, allocated parking, rear garden. EPC rating C

OLD HALL PARK, BRIGHTSTONE CLOSE — £250,000

"A WONDERFUL MODERN DETACHED HOME SITUATED ON A POPULAR CUL DE SAC LOCATION!" Comprising - 18 ft open plan lounge/sitting room, generous lounge, separate sitting area, 18 ft open plan fitted kitchen diner, gym area/office,4 BEDROOMS, bathroom, large en suite, front & rear gardens, garage to side. EPC rating D.

FORDHOUSES, THE HOLMES — £250,000

"A STUNNING FOUR BEDROOM BEDROOM LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN SHOW HOME STYLE CONDITION & IS READY TO MOVE INTO!" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, open plan kitchen diner, utility room, four bedrooms, en suite to master, family bathroom, off road parking, garage and rear garden. EPC rating C

WILLENHALL, ST ANNES ROAD — £245,000

ENVILLE "A brand new exclusive cul-de-sac development of 53 outstanding homes build by the AWARD WINNING developer Dunedin Homes. We are offering 2, 3, 4 & 6 bedroom detached, semi detached, town houses and apartments" HELP TO BUY & PART EXCHANGE OPTIONS. EPC rating TBC

WILLENHALL, OFF NOOSE LANE — POA

Park Edge is a delightful brand new development of 3 & 4 bedroom detached, semi-detached and town house luxury homes. Conveniently located for Wednesfield & Willenhall shopping centres these outstanding homes require viewing to fully appreciate. CONTACT CONNELLS ON 01902 710170. EPC rating TBC

WILLENHALL ST ANNES ROAD — £239,995

THE TRESCOTT "A brand new exclusive cul-de-sac development of 53 outstanding homes build by the AWARD WINNING developer Dunedin Homes. We are offering 2, 3, 4 & 6 bedroom detached, semi detached, town houses and apartments" HELP TO BUY & PART EXCHANGE OPTIONS. EPC rating TBC

WILLENHALL OFF NOOSE LANE — £190,000

Park Edge is a delightful brand new development of 3 & 4 bedroom detached, semi-detached and town house luxury homes. Conveniently located for Wednesfield & Willenhall shopping centres these outstanding homes require viewing to fully appreciate. EPC rating TBC

WILLENHALL ST ANNES ROAD — £189,995

A fantastic brand new corner property READY & AVAILABLE NOW! Comprising 18ft open plan kitchen diner, 19ft living room, wc, three bedrooms, family bathroom & separate master en-suite. Carpets & appliances are included. HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE. EPC rating TBC

WILLENHALL ST ANNES ROAD — £169,995

CHESLYN "A brand new exclusive cul-de-sac development of 53 outstanding homes build by the AWARD WINNING developer Dunedin Homes. We are offering 2, 3, 4 & 6 bedroom detached, semi detached, town houses and apartments" HELP TO BUY & PART EXCHANGE OPTIONS. EPC rating TBC

COPPICE FARM, MAREE GROVE — £197,500

"MODERN DETACHED PROPERTY TUCKED AWAY ALONG A PRIVATE DRIVEWAY ON THE POPULAR COPPICE FARM ESTATE AND AVAILABLE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN" Comprising - open plan lounge diner, wonderful refitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, MASTER EN SUITE, family bathroom, off road parking, garage and rear garden. EPC rating D

WEDNESFIELD SPONDON ROAD — £167,500

"A WONDERFUL TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED HOME OFFERING SPACIOUS LIVING ACCOMMODATION AT ITS BEST!" Comprising lounge, dining room, office with utility area (converted garage), three bedrooms (Bed 3 with dressing area), large family bathroom, pleasant front & rear garden with off road parking. EPC rating D

WEDNESFIELD WIMBORNE ROAD — £165,000

"A CHAIN FREE CHARMING & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED HOME OFFERING SPACIOUS LIVING ACCOMMODATION" Having generous lounge, 19'8" open plan kitchen diner, conservatory, three double bedrooms, luxury bathroom, front & generous rear gardens with off road parking & garage to side. EPC rating D

FORDHOUSES THE HOLMES — £159,950

"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME FOR SALE ON A POPULAR RESIDENTIAL ESTATE!" Comprising - entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, garage, rear garden and summer house. EPC rating E

EAST PARK HURSTBOURNE CRESCENT — £150,000

"A DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM THREE STOREY MODERN TOWN HOUSE DECORATED TO A HIGH STANDARD THROUGHOUT - VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED" Comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, modern kitchen diner, 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suites, off road parking, garage & rear garden. EPC rating C

WILLENHALL OFF NOOSE LANE — £139,999

PLOT 14 RESALE NEW BUILD THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE PROPERTY. Park Edge is a delightful brand new development of 3 & 4 bedroom detached, semi-detached & town house homes. Comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, cloaks wc, three bedrooms, en-suite and family bathroom. CALL CONNELLS ON 01902 710170. EPC rating TBC

OFF BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD GREENOCK CRESCENT — £129,995

"BUY FROM PLAN NOW - CALL 01902 710170" Plot 25 BELFORD. A two bedroom mid terrace property set on a delightful cul-de-sac development between Wolverhampton & Dudley - comprising lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, wc, two bedrooms, family bathroom, en-suite, pleasant front & rear gardens. EPC rating TBC

LANE HEAD HIGH ROAD — £129,999

"A CHARMING DETACHED COTTAGE WITH EXTENSION POSSIBILITIES TO SIDE"
This pleasant home comprises open plan lounge diner, fitted kitchen with separate utility, cellar, three bedrooms, family bathroom, pleasant front & rear gardens with off road parking to side. EPC rating E.

WEDNESFIELD REYNOLDS WALK — £114,995

ATTENTION ALL BUYERS! THIS VERSATILE AND WELL PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED HOME COMES TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN" Comprising - good size lounge, spacious kitchen diner, three good size bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, garage, enclosed rear garden. EPC rating D

FEATHERSTONE WEST WINDS — £115,000

"AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A MODERN 2 BEDROOM 2 STOREY TOWN HOUSE IN A READY TO MOVE INTO CONDITION, IDEALLY PLACED FOR M54 MOTORWAY AND I54 COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT!" Comprising - entrance hall, cloak room, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, allocated parking, rear garden. EPC rating C

COVEN LAWN LANE — £50,000

"NEW TO THE MARKET COMES A GOOD SIZE MOBILE HOME WITH FULL RESIDENCY & NO UPWARD CHAIN" Sitting on a corner plot there is allocated parking, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, refitted shower room and a double bedroom with fitted furniture. EPC Exempt

COVEN BREWOOD ROAD — £69,995

"ARGUABLY ONE OF COVENS LARGEST PARK HOME PLOTS, WE ARE OFFERING FOR SALE A CHAIN FREE PARK HOME SET ON A OUTSTANDING AND GENEROUS PLOT" Comprising - Lounge with french doors leading to decked area, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Some updating is required. EPC Exempt

COVEN HEATH BALL LANE — £61,000

A one bedroom park home previously arranged as two bedroom briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, master bedroom, modern fitted shower room. This property is also offered with no on-going chain and is situated on a popular park home development. EPC Exempt

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- TWO ENSUITES
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING

£425,000

Birchwood Close, Wolverhampton

- Detached Property
- Four bedrooms
- Two reception Rooms
- Large Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing

£349,950

Compton Road, Wolverhampton

- DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- CONSERVATORY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- FOUR BEDROOMS

£325,000

Vicarage Road, Wolverhampton

- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- HUGE POTENTIAL
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- ATTRACTIVE VIEWS
- TWO BEDROOMS
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- DETACHED GARAGE

Offers in the Region Of £240,000

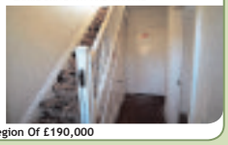
Penshaw Close, Wolverhampton

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- FITTED KICTHEN
- LOUNGE
- CONSERVATORY
- WC
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM

£200,000

Cannock Road, Wolverhampton

- PERFECT BLANK CANVAS WITH NO UP-WARD CHAIN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- LARGE DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE



Offers in the Region Of £190,000

Dunlin Drive, Wolverhampton

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- 2 BEDROOMS
- FEATURE KITCHEN
- POPULAR LOCATION
- GREAT ACCESS TO MAJOR ROAD NET-WORKS
- SINGLE GARAGE
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in the Region Of £185,000

Stubby Lane, Wolverhampton

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN
- 2/3 BEDOOMS
- FITTED BATHROOM

Offers in the Region Of £185,000

Stafford Road, Wolverhampton

- SPACIOUS DORMER BUNGALOW
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in the Region Of £169,950

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Padbury, Wolverhampton

- DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OFF ROAD PARKING

£169,950

Church Walk, Wolverhampton

- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- POPULAR LOCATION
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- THREE BEDROOMS
- DOUBLE GLAZING

Offers in Excess of £165,000

Worthy Down, Wolverhampton

- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- CORNER PLOT
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FITTED SHOWER ROOM

Offers in Excess of £160,000

Cotswold Road, Wolverhampton

- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY ROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in the Region Of £115,000

Redcotts Close, Wolverhampton

- MID TERRACED
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- OPEN PLAN LIVING SPACE
- VERANDA
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £104,950

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Wolverhampton
01902 267110
42 Queen Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TX

Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

The Chase, Wolverhampton
- Three Bedrooms
- One Bathroom
- Two Receptions
- Immaculate Condition
- Modern Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £650

Allen Road, Wolverhampton
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front and Rear Garden
- New Fitted Shower room
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Westering
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Chetwynd Road, Wolverhampton
- SEMI DETACHED
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM

Monthly Rental Of £595

Tenbury Gardens, Wolverhampton
- Three Bedrooms
- Good Sized Property
- Avaliable March
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £550

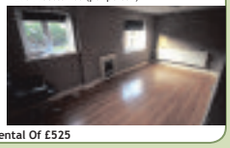
Greenock
- Two Bedroom Second floor Apartment
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Communal Entrance
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Keysmith Close, Willenhall
- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen/Dinner
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

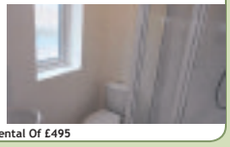
Monthly Rental Of £525

Cotswold Road, Wolverhampton
- Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS
- EPC - TBC
- £90 Process Fee (per person)



Monthly Rental Of £525

Deans Gate, Willenhall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Modern Throughout
- Ensuite
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Near Local Amenities
- DHSS ACCEPTED
-



Monthly Rental Of £495

Northover Close, Wolverhampton
- GROUND FLOOR PROPERTY
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- LOUNGE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

Monthly Rental Of £425

Neachells Lane, Wolverhampton
- First Floor Flat
- Lounge / Kitchen
- Bedroom
- NEWLY FITTED BATHROOM
- DHSS Accepted
-
-
-

Monthly Rental Of £350

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

Rubery Street, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Recently Decorated Throughout
- New Carpets
- SORRY NO DHSS
- EPC -
- £90 Process Fee (per person)

Monthly Rental Of £495

Falcon Crescent, Bilston
- Ground Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- New Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS
-
-

Monthly Rental Of £450

High Street, Wolverhampton
- Lounge
- Large Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Duplex
- DHSS Accepted
-
-

Monthly Rental Of £425

Weyhill Close, Wolverhampton
- ONE BED STUDIO FLAT
- First Floor
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Dressing Room
- Communal Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £295

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Starting at 7pm

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PROPERTY

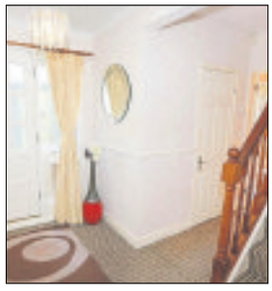
Extended bungalow is in ideal spot for commuting

AN extended four bedroomed dormer bungalow in Birchfield Avenue, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton lies on a corner plot with ample off road parking, double garage and gardens.

Ideally placed for commuting, it is for sale through Connells at offers in excess of £265,000.

It has an extended kitchen/diner, lounge with French doors, two ground floor bedrooms, master bedroom and further first floor bedroom.

Contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit www.connells.co.uk



BARTLAMS

www.bartlams.co.uk

ESTATE AGENTS • VALUERS • SURVEYORS

KINGSWOOD

● Substantial Detached Bungalow with extensive grounds, stabling and paddocks in lovely semi-rural setting on fringe of common some 5 miles north-west of W-ton city centre with convenient M54 access for commuting purposes ● Particularly spacious accommodation presented to high standard, also incorporating self-contained residential annexe ● Large Lounge ● Dining Room (approx 14'x13') ● 18ft Breakfast Kitchen ● Cloakroom & Utility/Laundry ● Master Bedroom with extensive fitted furniture & luxurious en-suite Shower Room ● 2 further double Bedrooms ● Lavishly appointed Principal Bathroom ● Annexe comprising Living Room, Kitchen, Bedroom & Shower Room. Suitable independent letting or relative accommodation ● Gas-fired CH ● DG windows ● Double width Garage plus generous parking ● Beautifully landscaped formal garden plot of almost one acre ● Stable block (capacity for 6 boxes & tack room) & 3 paddocks extending to about 2.75 acres ● (EPC: F)

OFFERS AROUND £675,000

HALFPENNY GREEN

GOSPEL ASH ROAD ● Spacious 5 Bed Detached incorporating a potential Annexe combining modern appointments with attractive cottage styling ● Semi-rural location, close to W'ton Business Airport and Highgate Common yet convenient to facilities at Wombourne ● Electric gated entrance & block paved driveway/parking ● Double Garage ● Oil CH (new twin 1400 litre tanks) & double glazing ● Porch ● Sitting Room with Inglenook ● Lounge ● Conservatory ● Cloakroom ● Dining Room ● Kitchen with oil fired AGA and Breakfast Area ● Long rear Hall, Store Room & Leisure Room/Home Office all with potential to create annexe ● Master Bedroom with wardrobes and En-Suite ● 4 further Bedrooms ● Large House Bathroom ● Attic Room/Study ● Pleasantly private lawned gardens (EPC: F)

OFFERS AROUND £475,000

WOMBOURNE

COMMON ROAD ● Impressive double-fronted 3 Bed period Detached in established position on southern fringes of the village, handy for local shopping and public transport and convenient for other village facilities ● Modest exterior conceals exceptionally spacious and superbly presented living accommodation - Internal viewing highly recommended! ● Hall ● 19ft Through Lounge with attractive period style fireplace ● Sitting Room ● Dining Room ● Impressive living Kitchen with vaulted roof ● Spacious Conservatory ● Toilet ● Cellar ● Master Bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and refitted En-Suite ● Two further good sized double Bedrooms ● Refitted House Bathroom ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Driveway parking and 21ft long Garage ● Additional off-road parking (EPC: E) ● ● NO CHAIN ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £350,000

WOMBOURNE

FIRST ADVERTISEMENT

SCHOOL ROAD ● Conveniently situated modern style 3 Bed Detached occupying a pleasantly established positioned within walking distance of the excellent village facilities and schools of all grades ● Roomy interior has the benefit of gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Entrance Hall ● Spacious Lounge with brick feature fireplace and open firegrate ● Dining Room with patio doors to garden ● Kitchen with wood fronted units ● 3 Bedrooms, two with wardrobes ● Bathroom ● Separate Toilet ● 21ft Garage ● Established gardens, particularly private at rear (EPC: D) ● ● NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £299,950

TETTENHALL WOOD

● Superb Detached Bungalow tucked away in pleasant private drive within prime locality with excellent selection of amenities easily accessible ● Spacious layout features exceptionally comfortable standard of appointment and stylish presentation ● Large Lounge with distinctive feature fireplace ● Separate Dining Room ● Smart modern Breakfast Kitchen including integrated appliances ● Three double Bedrooms, all with fitted wardrobes ● Bathroom plus additional fully fitted Shower Room ● Gas-fired central heating ● Double glazed windows ● Double-width Garage plus driveway parking facilities ● Nicely landscaped gardens ● (EPC: D)

OFFERS AROUND £299,950

WOMBOURNE

NEW PRICE

ROOKERY RISE ● Delightfully positioned modern 4 Bed Detached originally built by David Payne Homes set in small select development just off established Rookery Road a short distance from the village centre facilities and schools ● Well-proportioned layout ● Hall with Fitted Guest's Cloakroom ● 21ft Lounge with living flame gas fire ● Separate Dining Room ● Kitchen with modern style units ● Plumbed Utility ● Master Bedroom with fitted wardrobes and En-Suite ● 3 further Bedrooms ● House Bathroom ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Double Garage and driveway parking ● South westerly facing rear garden (EPC: D) ● ● NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £275,000

WOMBOURNE

FIRST ADVERTISEMENT

CHAPEL STREET ● 3 Bed End-Terraced House exuding considerable rustic charm and character set in a private road setting off Common Road near to local shopping and public transport ● Significantly enlarged, stylishly appointed and beautifully presented interior ● Hall with Fitted Guest's Cloakroom/Shower Room off ● Interlinked Lounge and Dining Room with wood burner ● Breakfast Kitchen with excellent fitted units and some appliances ● 3 good Bedrooms, one with wardrobes ● Luxuriously refitted Bathroom including both bath and shower ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Patio garden at rear ● Side driveway to shared parking area, Garage and Carport at rear (EPC: D) ● ● INTERIOR VIEWING ESSENTIAL ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £199,950

WOMBOURNE

BRAMBER DRIVE ● Pleasantly positioned and significantly enlarged 3 Bed Semi situated just off Planks Lane, handy for local and village centre shopping facilities, public transport and schools of all grades ● In need of some cosmetic upgrading ● Entrance Lobby/Utility ● Entrance Hall ● Lounge with fitted gas fire ● Dining Kitchen ● 16ft long uPVC double glazed Conservatory ● Workshop/Studios ● 3 good sized Bedrooms ● Shower Room with modern style suite ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Established rear garden and block paved driveway/parking to the front (EPC: E) ● ● NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £164,950

CODSALL

NEW INSTRUCTION

APARTMENT C, IRVINE HOUSE ● Lovely loft-style apartment on second floor of exclusive small block in the heart of the village with excellent range of amenities immediately to hand ● Spacious accommodation with very stylish specification, presented to high standard ● 18ft Living Room open plan to superb contemporary-style Kitchen with fine range of fittings and appliances ● Two Bedrooms (one with built-in wardrobe) ● Attractively appointed Bathroom ● Gas-fired central heating ● Double glazed windows ● Allocated parking facility ● Leasehold. Ground Rent and Service Charge payable.(EPC:C)

OFFERS AROUND £139,950

WHITMORE REANS

FIRST ADVERTISEMENT

Kenton Avenue ● Very attractive traditional-style semi pleasantly positioned in small cul-de-sac with convenient access to local amenities and into city centre ● Typically well proportioned accommodation nicely presented with smart decor and comfortable modern standard of appointment ● Two Living Rooms, each with bay window and feature fireplace ● Stylish Kitchen with contemporary fittings and integrated appliances ● Side Porch/Veranda ● Three Bedrooms (largest with range of fitted wardrobes and Dressing Table) ● Bathroom ● Gas-fired central heating ● Majority double glazing ● Forecourt parking facility ● Compact rear garden ● (EPC: D)

OFFERS AROUND £137,950

A full selection of our properties can be viewed at: www.bartlams.co.uk

Finchfield
15 Finchfield Road West, Finchfield WV3 8AY
Tel: (01902) 762900

Tettenhall
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Tel: (01902) 759888

Wombourne
House-On-The-Green High Street Wombourne WV5 9DN
Tel: (01902) 894141

Codsall
4 Station Road, Codsall WV8 1BX
Tel: (01902) 845215

Reeds Rains

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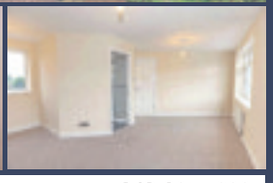
Fancourt Avenue

NEW PRICE

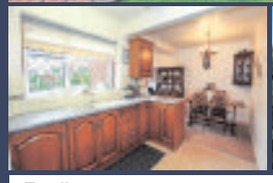


Penn **O/O £215,000**

Reeds Rains are delighted to present for sale a four bedroom semi detached property located in Penn available with NO ONWARD CHAIN property has undergone a refurbishment by the current owners includes new gas central heating including new radiators, new roof, a rewire, new doors as well as flooring, new kitchen, bathroom and en suite and is now ready to view to appreciate. Further accommodation comprises of two reception rooms and a downstairs WC property having own drive to a double garage as well as a rear garden. Don't miss out! EPC Grade = D

Cricket meadow

NEW PRICE



Fordhouses **£175,000**

We are delighted to present this three bedroom extended detached property situated within an popular development to the North of the city of Wolverhampton and within reasonable access to the M54 motorway and the I54 business park. The property has two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC and bathroom as well as having gas fired radiator heating, double glazed windows and a block paved drive to the garage. Offered with no chain a viewing is strongly advised to avoid disappointment in missing out.EPC Grade = F

Belmont Road

NEW PRICE

Penn **£160,000**

Situated off Mount Road in Penn to the South West of the City of Wolverhampton is this three bedroom property having the benefit of two separate reception rooms, a downstairs WC in addition to the upstairs bathroom, gas fired radiator heating and double glazed windows. Viewing is strongly advised EPC Grade = E

Lynton Avenue

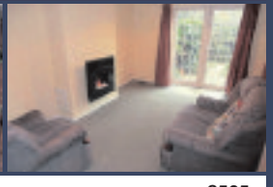
TO LET

Claregate **£600**

TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED IN A SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. There is 2 reception rooms, a fitted kitchen, 3 first floor bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also double glazed windows, gas central heating and a driveway. Call to view today !!

Regency Court Park

TO LET



City Centre **£525**

TRULY EXQUISITE CITY CENTRE PROPERTY. Nestled Behind a Row of Large Victorian Properties and a Walled Front Garden, this Property has 2 Great Sized Bedrooms, a Large Lounge with Double Doors Leading Out to a Private Rear Garden, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Double Glazed Windows and Doors and Gas Central Heating. AVAILABLE MID APRIL TO MOVE IN TO

There are many reasons for moving house. Whatever yours are, take the first step towards a new beginning and contact us to arrange a FREE valuation today.

Ask in branch for details or visit reedsrains.co.uk to book an appointment.

Waterloo House, 4 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton WV1 4BL
01902 428888 wolverhampton@reedsrains.co.uk

Abbots Way

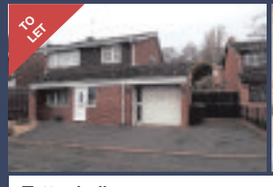
TO LET

Bradmore **£600**

FIRST CLASS NEWLY REFURBISHED 3 BEDROOM PROPERTY OPPOSITE BANTOCK PARK. The property offers a totally refurbished kitchen dining area with integrated appliances, three excellent bedrooms, stunning bathroom as well as central heating and double glazing. This property is in a very sought after location and MUST be viewed. CALL NOW BOOK YOUR VIEWING!

Woodfield Hights

TO LET



Tettenhall **£850**

EXCELLENT DETACHED HOUSE IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. Reception Hallway, Cloakroom WC, Large Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, 4 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage, Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, Do Not Miss Out. View Today!!

Helming Drive

Deansfield **£575**

STUNNING REFURBISHED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Brand New Kitchen, Dining Area, Conservatory, 2 Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Driveway, Front and Rear Gardens, Must be Viewed.

Capponfield Close

TO LET

Bilston **£800**

OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY! This property is a must see. It comprises entrance hall, large lounge area, separate dining room with the kitchen and utility area to the back of the property. The first floor has four excellent bedrooms one with an en-suite to the master and a family bathroom. This impressive property also has a driveway and rear garden.

Springhill grove

TO LET

Penn **£750**

OPEN HOUSE EVENT SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY Sat at the top if the Cul de Sac in a top location, this superb detached house has 3 great sized bedrooms and a luxury bathroom. The ground floor has 2 reception rooms and a very nice fitted kitchen. There is double glazing and gas central heating, a driveway to the side and front and rear gardens

Broad Gauge Way

TO LET

City Centre **£695**

☑OPEN HOUSE EVENT. SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY AT 1.00PM. CALL TO BOOK!! CITY CENTRE LOCATION READY TO VIEW TODAY. First floor luxury apartment in the very popular Broad Gauge Way development. There are 2 double bedrooms, ensuite shower room and bathroom, fitted kitchen and lounge with dining area. There is also reserved parking

Judges House

TO LET

City Centre **£78 PW**

CONGRATULATIONS.....YOU ARE THOUGH TO THE JUDGES HOUSE.. Proud historical building that has been brought back to life with an amazing total refurb.. Gorgeous communal halls, spacious furnished living area, furnished communal area, private bathroom, large modern shared kitchen. All bills are included here so please do not miss out.

Waltho Street

Wolverhampton **£800**

STUNNING BRAND NEW DETACHED HOUSE. this modern development and accommodation comprises; reception hallway, cloakroom, large lounge, fitted dining kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite shower room and 3 further bedrooms. There is also a family bathroom, a garage to the side and newly planted gardens to the front and rear

Cannock
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Stone
01785 813501

Wolverhampton
01902 428888

Stafford
01785 258888

Eccleshall
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*The tenancy set up fee is £XXX. Additional fees may apply. Please refer to the website or ask in branch for more details.

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QE TOO?

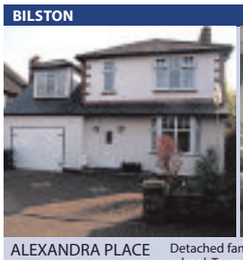
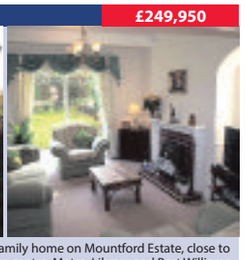
We previously reported how Lenders were filling their boots with Buy to Let mortgages and the adverse impact that this was having on First Time Buyers unable to compete because of affordability constraints. Could Quantitative Easing have amplified these effects by beefing up BTL cash purchases as well? In a recent piece on QE credit reference agency S&P said this:-

"…the share of cash-financed buy to let transactions appears to have started out pacing mortgage financed buy to let transactions at about the same time when QE was first deployed… an increasing number of new additions to the rental market must have been financed by means other than mortgages, which we consider a good proxy for cash purchases. We think this points to the portfolio-rebalancing effect of QE, when investors liquidate lower yielding positions in their portfolio where yields have come under downward pressure due to QE (such as yields on government debt), in order to acquire higher-yielding assets from the proceeds. Higher demand for BTL property is likely to exert upward pressure on house prices."

If this analysis is correct then this would explain why the Bank of England is increasingly concerned about the threat to financial stability posed by the BTL sector since if yields elsewhere become more attractive then it follows that there will be a flight of money away from bricks and mortar.

Adam Whitehouse

BILSTON £249,950

ALEXANDRA PLACE

Detached family home on Mountford Estate, close to school, Town centre, Metro, Library and Bert Williams Centre. Secluded garden and integral Garage. (EPC 55 = D)

4 2 2

ALBRIGHTON £1,200* PCM

PARK FARM BUILDINGS

NEWLY CONVERTED
RURAL LOCATION
4 BEDROOMS
LANDSCAPE VIEWS
EPC 71 = C

4 1 2

PENN £184,000

NEW

GOLDTHORN

CRESCENT

Trad 3 bed semi, modernised in recent years. Rad CH and majority uPVC DG. Driveway and rear garden. Within a cul-de-sac. No upwards chain plus various fixtures and fittings included. (EPC 61 = D)

3 3 1

GOLDTHORN PARK £174,999

OFFERS INVITED FOR CONSIDERATION

ROSEMARY

CRESCENT WEST

A spacious semi with DG and CH generous sized driveway and southerly facing rear garden. Fixtures & fittings included. No upwards chain (EPC 40 = E)

3 2 1

PENN £159,950

OFFERS INVITED FOR CONSIDERATION

WARSTONES ROAD

A deceptively spacious detached bungalow residence in sought after South West W'ton. Modern DG and CH plus a conservatory, study and garage. Viewing recommended and strictly by appointment – call now! (EPC 64 = D)

2 2 1

WILLENHALL £600* PCM

NOOSE LANE

BUNGALOW
3 BEDROOMS
CONSERVATORY
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC 65 = D

3 2 1

WEDNESFIELD £147,500

MILL LANE

A semi-detached home ideal for local commute to i54 and M54/M6. Well kept, has radiator CH majority DG plus detached garage and lovely rear garden. Must be viewed. (EPC 53 = E)

3 2 1

PENN £144,500

HEY - TAKE A LOOK INSIDE!

BELMONT ROAD

Charming trad terrace home offering good family accommodation with DG & CH (both where specified) plus gardens. Can be offered with no upwards chain. (EPC 62 = D)

3 2 1

BILSTON £129,500

LOWBRIDGE WALK

A really spacious Two bedroom Apartment with two Bathrooms in stunning complex! Absolute loads of character! (EPC 66 = D)

2 2 2

WOLVERHAMPTON £525* PCM

MILTON ROAD

3 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
LARGE KITCHEN
GARDEN
EPC 55 = D

3 2 1

WOLVERHAMPTON £129,000

OFFERS INVITED FOR CONSIDERATION

HELMING DRIVE

Situated East of the City convenient for New Cross Hospital & Bentley Bridge Leisure and beyond. This semi-detached house is worthy of viewing, benefiting from DG and rad CH (both where specified) conservatory, garage, driveway, carport and gardens. (EPC 60 = D)

3 1 1

BUSHBURY £99,950

NEW

RINGWOOD ROAD

Traditional semi-detached house. North of the City and convenient for i54/M54. The property benefits from DG and CH (both where specified) has a generous rear garden and front driveway. Offering lots of potential for FTB's and investor-landlords alike? (EPC 66 = D)

3 2 1

PENNFIELDS £94,950

NEW

RAYLEIGH ROAD

Trad terraced home with modernised 2 bed accommodation that should be viewed for full appreciation of the size. Well presented, in a convenient location, ideal for the City and surrounding amenities. Should appeal to FTBs and Landlords alike. There will be no upwards chain. Offers invited. (EPC 52 = E)

2 2 1

PENNFIELDS £495* PCM

NEW

RAYLEIGH ROAD

WELL PRESENTED 2 BED TERRACED
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
DOUBLE GLAZING
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC 52 = E

2 2 1

BUSHBURY £87,000

BACK ON THE MARKET & NEW PRICE!

SHERBORNE ROAD

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3 2 1

PERTON £75,000

WORTH VIEWING & OFFERS INVITED

WAVENEY AVENUE

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2 1 1

BILSTON £55,000

NO CHAIN

BOURNE STREET

Ground floor flat in small development in Hurst Hill with easy access to Sedgley/Bilston. Lots of storage space and with Garage! Gas CH and DG. No chain. (EPC 67 = D)

1 1 1

BILSTON £450* PCM

AMBLESIDE CLOSE

1 BEDROOM MID CLUSTER HOUSE
LIVING ROOM
DINING KITCHEN
EPC 63 = D

1 1 1

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OAKLANDS FARM, OAKLANDS COURT

£650,000

Occupying a superb location in the delightful hamlet of Rudge and enjoying picturesque views overs surrounding countryside this detached property has planning permission to extend/ restyle and therefore represents an excellent opportunity. Originally designed to a well-planned specification the accommodation presently comprises:
Reception Porch * Entrance Hall * Fitted Cloakroom * Sitting Room * 32ft Living Room * Separate Good Size Dining Room * Breakfast Kitchen * Double Garage * Landing with Study Area * Family Bathroom * Good Size Master Bedroom * Two Further Bedrooms * Mature Landscaped Gardens * EPC E

12 KIDDEMORE GREEN ROAD

£550,000

Occupying a delightful village location with open aspect over countryside at rear, this individually designed detached cottage residence hosts a number of attractive period features throughout being an excellent example of a good size family home.
Open Reception Hall with Dining & Sitting Area * Conservatory * Good Size Living Room with feature fire place * Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen * Dining/ Breakfast Area * Utility * Inner Lobby & Cloakroom * First Floor Landing * Five Bedrooms * Master Dressing Room & Ensuite * Family Bathroom * Most Impressive Landscaped Mature Rear Garden * Detached Double Garage * EPC Rating D

143 GOLDTHORN HILL, PENN

£325,000

Screened from the main road and occupying a corner cul de sac position this detached property has been thoughtfully extended to provide extremely spacious and versatile living accommodation. Ideal for purchasers requiring a property to restyle to own requirements and to extend further (STPP), the accommodation further comprises:

Extended Detached House * Reception Porch to Entrance Hall * Fitted Cloakroom * Through Living Room * Sitting Room * Breakfast Kitchen * Utility with Stores * Dining Room * Inner Lobby with Porch * Double Width Garage * First Floor Landing * Four Bedrooms * Master Ensuite * Family Bathroom * Mature Surrounding Gardens * Gas Central Heating & Part Double Glazing * EPC Rating E

141 YEW TREE LANE, TETTENHALL

£295,000

Situated in a popular residential area and enjoying open aspects over school playing fields at rear this detached bungalow has been extended and restyled to provide surprisingly versatile living accommodation.

Reception Porch * Entrance Hall * Fitted Cloakroom * Shower Room * Two Double Bedrooms * Living Room overlooking Mature Enclosed Rear Garden * Dayrooms Refitted Kitchen with matching suite of units * Inner Lobby to Sitting Room * Garage * Good Size Driveway * Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing * EPC Rating E

11 WOODCOTE ROAD, TETTENHALL

£279,950

Occupying a choice position in a favoured location and within walking distance of the village this three bedroom detached property has been constructed to a well-planned specification utilizing the maximum space. The property is conveniently located for the majority of amenities. The gas centrally heated and double glazed interior includes:

Entrance Hall * Fitted Cloakroom * Living Room with Feature York Fire Place * Separate Dining Room * Breakfast Kitchen with Matching Suite of Units * Double Width Garage * Landing * Family Bathroom * Three Bedrooms * Rear Garden * Gas Central Heating * Mainly Double Glazing * EPC Rating D

21 DOVECOTE CLOSE, TETTENHALL

£275,000

Designed to a well-planned specification utilising the maximum space this detached bungalow occupies a most pleasant cul de sac positon in a favoured residential location and within walking distance of Tettenhall Village. The surprisingly spacious accommodation, which has the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing further comprises:

Entrance Hall * Fitted Cloakroom * Good Size Living Room * Fitted Kitchen with matching suite of units * Inner Hall with Stores * Shower Room with white suite * Two Bedrooms * Bedroom Three/ Dining Room to Conservatory * Gated Side Driveway * Detached Garage * Enclosed Rear Garden * EPC Rating D

113 BHYLLS LANE, CASTLECROFT

£265,000

Situated in a popular residential area and within walking distance of Windmill Lane Shops and the amenities therein, this individually designed detached bungalow has been redesigned by the present owners to create a most attractive interior with a number of charming features throughout.

Entrance Hall * Four Bedrooms * Inner Hall * Feature Open Plan Luxury Dining Kitchen with matching suite of units * Rear Porch/ Veranda Spacious Living Room * Refitted Family Bathroom * Garage * Mature Rear Garden * Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing * EPC Rating C

23 MARTHAM DRIVE, COMPTON

£189,000

Situated in a favoured location and occupying a corner position in a small select cul de sac this restyled detached property is within walking distance of Compton Village. Viewing is highly recommended on this deceptive modern property, the gas central heating & double glazing further comprises:

Deceptive Detached Property * Reception Hall * Utility * Inner Hall * Living Room * Dining Room * Kitchen with matching suite of units * First Floor Landing * Three Bedrooms * Bathroom * Garage * Rear Garden * Gas Central Heating & Mainly Double Glazing * EPC Rating D

7 MILLWALK DRIVE, PENDEFORD

£179,950

Occupying a choice position in a small select cul de sac on this popular modern development, this detached bungalow offers surprisingly spacious living accommodation representing an excellent example of its type. The gas centrally heated and mainly double glazed accommodation includes:

Reception Porch * Entrance Hall * Kitchen with matching suite of units * Living Room * Separate Dining Room * Side Porch * Inner Hall * Bathroom * Three Bedrooms * Enclosed Rear Garden * Gated Driveway leading to Detached Garage * No Upward Chain * EPC Rating D

55 CONISTON ROAD, PALMERS CROSS

£162,500

Situated in a popular residential area convenient for the majority of amenities including school and shops this deceptive semi-detached property offers surprisingly spacious living accommodation and is an excellent example of its type.

Reception Porch * Entrance Hall * Choice of Two Reception Rooms * Kitchen with matching suite of units * Garage with Utility Area at rear * First Floor Landing * Three Bedrooms * Refitted Shower Room * Good Size Mature Landscaped Garden * Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing * EPC Rating D

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PROPERTY

Mid-terrace house is for sale priced at £120,000

THIS well presented two bedroomed mid-terrace in Aldersley Road, Tettenhall, is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £120,000 with the bonus of no chain.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a sitting room, dining room, fitted dining kitchen with French doors to the rear garden, two bedrooms and bathroom.

It has gas central heating, double glazing and a lawned garden to the rear.

Contact 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

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Vacant Commercial Properties
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ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

at Aston Villa Football Ground

31 Langley Avenue, Bilston
4 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

69 Rooker Avenue, Parkfields
4 Bedroom Detached House with C2 Consent for a Children's Care Home
Guide: £150,000 - £175,000

9 Hospital Lane, Coseley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £68,000 - £73,000

11 Hickman Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

51 Ashmore Lake Road, Willenhall
2 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £84,000 - £88,000

R/O 3-21 Lower Vauxhall, Wolverhampton
Development Opportunity For Two Houses, Refer To Legal Pack For Planning Details
Guide: £85,000 plus

**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

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at Aston Villa Football Ground

155 LOTS to include:

Viewing 22nd Feb 10:45 & 24th Feb 15:15

47 Lewis Street, Bilston
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 15:15 & 24th Feb 10:45

9 Ashfield Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Viewing 20th Feb 13:45 & 22nd Feb 13:45

9 Tanfield Road, Dudley
4 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £59,000 - £69,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 16:00 & 24th Feb 10:00

30 Sycamore Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

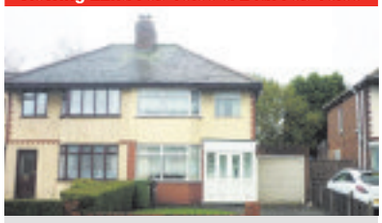
Viewing 20th Feb 10:45 & 22nd Feb 10:45

46 Newton Road, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 12:15 & 24th Feb 13:45

16 Windsor Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 10:00 & 24th Feb 16:00



263 Deans Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 13:45 & 24th Feb 12:15

156 Hilton Road, Lanesfield
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 13:00 & 24th Feb 13:00

19 Veronica Av., Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £24,000 - £29,000

Viewing 20th Feb 14:30 & 22nd Feb 14:30

2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 20th Feb 11:45 & 22nd Feb 11:45

20 Hereford Street, Walsall
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Viewing 20th Feb 12:30 & 22nd Feb 12:30

35 Wood Lane, Willenhall
4 Bedroom Link Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Viewing 20th Feb 10:00 & 22nd Feb 10:00

23 Harbeck Avenue, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 14:30 & 24th Feb 11:30

31 Langley Avenue, Bilston
4 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 20th Feb 15:45 & 22nd Feb 15:45

6 Ely Grove, Quinton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 11:30 & 24th Feb 14:30

11 Hickman Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

FURTHER VIEWING APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON SOME LOTS. FOR DETAILS CALL THE OFFICE ON 0121 233 5046.

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Jackson LILE & CLOSE team

TURNPIKE WAY COVEN

A beautifully presented and highly attractive Detached Family Residence appointed and decorated to a very high standard, enjoying a pleasant setting only a short distance from the village centre with many lovely country walks nearby. Tile canopy porch, hall, guests cloakroom, splendid lounge, large uPVC DG conservatory, superbly fitted dining kitchen, principal bedroom with ensuite shower room, two further bedrooms, deluxe family bathroom, uPVC DG, gas CH, car port, garage, landscaped gardens. Early sale desired. Energy rating: D

£249,500

MANDERLEY CLOSE SEDGLEY

A considerably extended Detached Family Residence of much appeal enjoying pleasant cul-de-sac setting in this much favoured area well served by a wide range of local amenities. Covered entrance, reception hall, guests cloakroom, lounge, extended dining room/sitting room, extended breakfast kitchen, utility room, landing, five bedrooms, deluxe bathroom, CH, uPVC DG, built in garage, laid out gardens. No upward chain. Energy Rating: D

Offers £245,000

PAGET ROAD TETTENHALL RD

A very spacious and recently refurbished early Edwardian Semi Detached Residence of much character presently converted into two excellent self contained apartments but would easily convert back into a single dwelling house if desired. The ground floor flat comprises: living room, modern kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, CH, part DG. The first floor flat offers: sitting room, superbly fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, deluxe bathroom, there is a further attic room and part uPVC DG, gas Ch. Ideal growing family or family with dependent relative; alternatively investor seeking renal income. Energy ratings: C & D

£225,000

JEFFCOCK ROAD PENN FIELDS

An extended Detached Family Residence of much character and appeal in need of some modernisation but offering exceptional scope for improvement, enjoying a highly convenient setting in this popular neighbourhood. Excellent local amenities are close at hand and Wolverhampton City Centre and the University are approximately 2.5 miles travelling distance. Standing in a beautiful garden setting, the property is ideal for the growing family or family with a dependant relative. Tile Hung Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Sun Loggia, Kitchen, Enclosed Rear Lobby, Garden Store and Toilet, Four/Five Bedrooms, Bathroom, GCH, Large Attractively Laid Out Rear Garden. Energy rating: F

£219,995

KINGSWOOD GARDENS PENN

A particularly attractive detached family house built in neo Tudor style enjoying a pleasant secluded setting in this highly popular residential area. Reception hall, guests cloakroom, pretty lounge, dining room, well fitted kitchen, guests cloakroom, sun lounge extension, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom, CH, uPVC DG, garage, landscaped gardens. No upward chain. Awaiting EPC

Offers, guide £190,000

BELMONT ROAD PENN

Enjoying an attractive elevated setting in this popular road, a considerably extended Detached Family Residence in need of some modernisation and redecoration but affording considerable scope for improvement. Enclosed porch, hall, cloakroom with w.c., dining room, extended lounge, "L" shaped breakfast room/kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, loft room conversion, majority uPVC DG, CH, garage, gardens. Early sale desired. Energy rating: D

£160,000

CLAREMONT RD PENN FIELDS

A beautifully presented and superbly appointed Semi Detached House of exceptional attraction enjoying a pleasant and highly convenient setting. Recessed entrance porch, beautifully fitted "L" shaped living kitchen/dining area, most attractive lounge, 3 excellent bedrooms, deluxe bathroom, CH, uPVC DG, garage, private and sunny rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. No upward chain. Energy rating: D

£158,500

TURF COTTAGES PENN COMMON

A period Mid Terraced Cottage in need of some updating but affording considerable potential for improvement and extension, enjoying a lovely setting with breath taking views over The Common, Penn Golf Course and far reaching views beyond. Enclosed porch, lounge, dining room, inner lobby, bathroom, kitchen, two bedrooms, part uPVC DG, gas CH, rear garden, large garden store. No upward chain. Energy rating: C

Offers, guide £155,000

TAUNTON AVENUE FORDHOUSES

An extended and attractively styled Semi Detached House pleasantly situated on this very popular residential estate handy for a wide range of local amenities and well positioned for the motorway network which gives access to most industrial areas of Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands. Enclosed porch, hall, through lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, CH, uPVC DG, garage, gardens. No upward chain. Awaiting EPC

£155,000

WIGHTWICK COURT WIGHTWICK

A delightfully presented and well appointed First Floor Apartment of considerable attraction, enjoying a lovely setting in this much sought after area. Excellent local shops, schools and recreational facilities are readily available and Wolverhampton City Centre and the University are within easy travelling distance. Communal entrance, shaped landing, private hall entrance, attractive "L" shaped lounge/dining area, well fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, uPVC DG, electric heating, garage in nearby block, visitors and residents parking area, communal gardens ●● Immediate sale desired ●● No upward chain. Energy rating: E

Offers £129,995

DUNLIN DRIVE FEATHERSTONE

A pleasing Semi Detached House ideal for first time buyers or investors seeking rental income, attractively situated on this very popular development. Reception hall, lounge with dining area off, kitchen, landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, CH, uPVC DG, ample parking space, gardens. Energy rating: D

£129,000

PRUDEN AVENUE LANESFIELD

An attractively presented and particularly pleasing Semi Detached Bungalow enjoying a gently elevated setting well positioned for a wide range of local amenities. Enclosed side entrance lobby, fitted kitchen, bathroom, inner hall, lounge, two bedrooms, potential for loft room conversion (subject to pp), CH, uPVC DG, off road parking space, gardens front and rear. Energy rating: D.

Offers, guide £123,000

DIXON STREET PARKFIELDS

Commanding a prominent corner setting and enjoying pleasant views at the front overlooking open playing fields, a Semi Detached House, ideal for the first time buyer, growing family or even investor seeking rental income. Reception hall, lounge/dining area, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, de-luxe shower room, CH, uPVC DG, lawned gardens. Outside: workshop, garden store and w.c.. No upward chain. Awaiting EPC

£105,000

TILBURY CLOSE CASTLECROFT

A most pleasing Ground Floor Apartment of considerable attraction, well positioned in this much favoured area handy for a wide range of local facilities. Reception hall, lounge/dining area, refitted kitchen, two good bedrooms, bathroom, CH, uPVC DG, off road parking facilities, gardens. Energy rating: D

Offers, guide £96,000

OXFORD STREET BILSTON

An especially attractive and well appointed first floor apartment of considerable appeal holding a prominent corner setting only a short distance from Bilston Town Centre. Entry phone with security camera. Reception hall, large "L" shaped open plan lounge/dining area with well fitted kitchen area off, two double bedrooms, bathroom, CH, double glazing, laid out communal gardens, two secure allocated car parking spaces. £50,800 (Based on 40% shared ownership with Heantun Housing Association). Energy rating: B

£50,800

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Cactus is looking sharp

By Sharon Walters

The Citroën Cactus may have an unusually quirky image but it's a joy to drive and offers excellent fuel economy.

We shouldn't have been surprised when the rather unusual Citroën Cactus arrived on our streets. Looking a little like a chunky child's toy or something from Thunderbirds, it follows on from all those great quirky cars that the French company used to give us.

In the past it was a company that dared to be different and brought us very individual cars like the DS, 2CV (remember the one with the soft top?), the SM, the CX and the BX. And not so long ago the Xantia Activa, the C6 and the C4. They weren't always successes but we certainly remember them, if only for their looks.

Now we have the Cactus and and its timing couldn't have been better. Let's face it, crossover vehicles had become so popular they had moved from the alternative to a comfortable family hatch. We now have a crossover that looks unlike any other vehicle on the roads, with its Airbump side cladding and a shed-load of other bold details.

A large panoramic sunroof features a state-of-the-art coating to filter UV light and reflect heat, and fills the cabin with diffused light.

Unique to the C4 Cactus and an instantly recognisable feature of the model is Citroën's new Airbump technology.

Fitted to the front and rear doors, the tough air-filled TPU (thermoplastic polyurethane) capsules protect against minor bumps and scrapes. Airbump panels do not need specific maintenance and reduce the stress and expense associated with car park dings and dents – cutting service and repair costs over the lifetime of the car.

While the interior looks uncluttered and without much in the way of technology, there is an awful lot discreetly placed.

Fitted as standard, the fully digital Touch Drive interface features a 7-inch touchscreen to control all the main vehicle functions. These include automatic air conditioning, media (DAB radio, audio streaming, mobile connections, music and photo storage), navigation (map view, speed limit display, traffic conditions, fuel-efficient routing), driving aids (reversing camera, park assist, speed limiter/cruise control), telephone (hands-free via Bluetooth, contacts, call management), connected services and vehicle settings.

It takes a while to get to grips with but once mastered the interface is excellent. Plus, there are some shortcut keys on either side of the main screen for practicality.

There is also a range of innovative aids available, including park assist to get into spaces and a reversing camera which displays the rear view and guidelines on the touchscreen.

Designed to reduce the cost of ownership throughout the life of the vehicle, the C4 Cactus's multi-award-winning features include a lightweight design, impressive fuel economy of up to 91.1mpg and excellent fuel emissions.

The car is offered with six efficient powertrains, four petrol – PureTech 75, PureTech 82, PureTech 82 S&S and PureTech 110 S&S – and two HDi diesels – e-HDi 92 and BlueHDi 100. Engines are mated to either five-speed manual or five or six-speed ETG (Efficient Tronic Gearbox) transmissions. All diesels are sub-100g/km of CO2 and are eligible for free car tax. There is even a tax-exempt petrol version – the PureTech 82 S&S ETG – which emits just 98g/km.

While I was a little unsure about the looks, its economy and comfort won me over.

Looking a little like a chunky child's toy or something from Thunderbirds, it follows on from all those great quirky cars that the French company used to give us

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C-Class
13/13 C 180 BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon Ex Tenorite Grey Black Artico **£13,995**
13/63 C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon Black black ARTICO man-made leather **£16,495**
12/62 C 180 CGI BlueEFFICIENCY Estate Obsidian Black Liverpool fabric/ARTICO - black **£16,500**
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11/61 C 250 CDI Estate ELEGANCE Calcite White Black Cloth/Artico **£16,995**
12/12 C 220 CDI Estate ELEGANCE Palladium silver Black Artico **£17,495**
12/62 C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Estate Polar White Black Cloth/Artico **£17,995**
12/62 C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon Iridium Silver Artico/Dinamica - Black **£17,995**
13/63 C 250 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Estate Obsidian Black Liverpool fabric/ARTICO - black **£18,450**
14/64 C 200 Saloon SE Iridium Silver Black - Artico Leather **£18,950**
13/63 C 220 CDI Saloon AMG Sport Plus Iridium Silver Black Alcantara Artico **£18,950**
13/13 C 220 CDI Coupé AMG Sport Diamond White Sahara Beige **£19,995**
12/62 C 250 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Coupé Obsidian black Fabric/leather ARTICO black **£19,995**
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14/14 C 220 Estate Sport Polar White Black Artico **£22,495**
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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, February 18, 2016

Tiny tweaks make great product even better

By Ian Donaldson

You know a car is important to its maker when the first 25 pages of the info pack for road testers is all about the vehicle's heritage. Only then do you arrive at today's machine.

Which in this case is the latest version of the car that means perhaps more than anything to BMW – the 3 Series.

More than 14 million of them have been sold since the first one appeared as a modestly sized sporty saloon in 1975.

Today, around one in four BMWs sold around the world is a 3 Series.

So its continuing success, against ever stronger opposition (Jaguar's XE is the latest) could not be more important for the Bavarian car maker.

And that means you tinker with the basics at your peril. Much more sensible to advance in small steps, making successive models a bit faster, slightly more economical and making sure there are enough versions to tempt the maximum number of potential buyers.

Pole

Which, in the case of UK 3 Series buyers, means at least 112 different types to consider, from modest rear-wheel drive petrol models to big diesel bruisers with all-wheel drive and enough attitude to take pole position in the company car park.

That's before you take in the list of possible options. Always a German car maker's speciality, you can go crazy with the tick boxes and end up with something like the car on test.

It was laden with an extraordinary £12,010 worth of options. Decide that after all you could live without a front armrest with sliding adjustment and already you've clawed back £45 (and every little helps).

You don't of course, have to take any of the options, although you won't see many 3 Series without metallic paint (£645) and heated front seats (£325) ought to be standard.

But back to the car itself; put it next to a just superseded version and you'd need to be a BMW anorak to spot the difference.

Tiny changes to air intakes and lights are the signs, while inside you might spot a bit of high gloss black – and cup holders with a sliding cover.

Economy

Under the bonnet all the petrol engines and most of the diesels are new to the 3 Series, with useful gains in economy and emissions the result.

BMW knows it has to maintain its reputation as a maker of cars with a sporty feel and its engineers worry about the details, to the extent that the front suspension now uses five bolts to hold it to the body instead of three.

That means less distortion and a purer feel when you're pressing on.

Which you may want to do in a car like the model on test. Slipping into the hip-hugging front seats (a part of the £2,500 you pay for the M Sport package) you know instantly that BMW sweats the details.

So the pedals are in precisely the right place, the instruments big, bold and easily read and there's a general air of sober sense and lots of well applied black.

You might find the stiffened suspension a bit grumbly over poor road surfaces but the poise and balance of the car is compensation enough.

The eight-speed auto box comes into its own when you feel less like a potential F1 entrant – perhaps on the way home after a hard day at the office when nothing went right.

We all have days like that; the 3 Series driver is better positioned than most to cope with them.

TESTED

BMW 320d xDrive M Sport Auto

Engine: Diesel engine, 187bhp

Warranty: Three years, unlimited mileage

Economy: The BMW 3 Series can do 60.1mpg

Insurance: 31

Price: £35,960

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Interest charges	£0
Optional final payment	£6,600.25
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Duration of agreement	37 months

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on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase

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Interest charges	£1,213.75
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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, February 18, 2016

Hot hatch Focus RS lives up to the legend

By Ed Wiseman

We've seen the photos. We remember the legends. We've slurped thirstily at every droplet of info that leaks from the Ford PR machine. But does the Focus RS live up to the legend?

The Focus RS is a blue-collar hero. Since its introduction in 2002, the RS – which stands for 'Rallye Sport' – has been the halo model for fast Ford fans in the UK. It's a nod to legendary cars like the RS1600 and the Sierra Cosworth, both of which were attainable and immensely quick.

Prices for this car start at just under £30,000, and its driving dynamics and sheer power would challenge cars costing three times that.

It's all-wheel-drive, it hits 62mph in 4.7 seconds, and it sounds like an angry lion. Ridiculous. This is the kind of car you could fall in love with – and then lease for £299 a month from your nearest Ford dealer.

It's pretty subtle until you notice the more aggressive bodywork, the spoiler above the rear windscreen, and the sculpted front and rear. The launch colour is Nitrous Blue, which accounts for most of the orders currently placed, but opting for a quieter colour will create an understated 'sleeper' car.

Ford has used some interior space to build a unique all-wheel-drive system. You lose around 60 litres from the (already mediocre) boot, and the standard seats are bulky and eat into rear passenger legroom. Splash out on the shell seats for a more comfortable cabin.

Despite being a performance-oriented car, the RS has all the mod cons you'd expect. A couple of 12v charging sockets up front, loads of stowage space, and some USB ports as well.

Brilliant

Ford has built a brilliant driver's car. They even have a metric for how 'fun' it is to rev the engine (very), and they teamed up with stunt driver and internationally-renowned boy racer Ken Block to make a car that you can mess around in.

The RS has four main driving modes. Normal, Sport, Track and Drift. If those last two words don't excite you, then you should probably stop reading, as the RS isn't for you.

'Drift' mode enables you to drive sideways in a cloud of tyre smoke. The amount of technology that has gone into creating this preposterous toy is staggering, especially considering it has no real-world application outside a deserted carpark at 2am. It's huge fun and very controllable, artificially creating predictable oversteer.

'Track' mode is where the RS really shines. Built to flatter amateurs and satisfy professionals, it really does make you look good on the track – ham-fisted driving is smoothed out by the car's powerful computer.

If you want track day success, but lack talent, this could be the car for you.

That's not to say it's for beginners. If you know what you're doing, you'll be able to get the most out this performance Ford – and goodness me, it's capable.

It costs around £30,000, going up to £33,000 if you tick every option.

For this you get one of the best-handling cars currently for sale, and the most versatile performance hatchback ever. All in a sensible, five-door, family car package that you can use every day.

Anyone who wants everyday driving fun and has £30,000 to spend on it should buy this car. You can drive it like a vanilla Focus for the most part, but every other Saturday, this family wagon will turn into a monster on the track. If you're the kind of person to occasionally take a longer, twistier, more interesting route home, then this is the car for you.

This car summed up in a single word: Bonkers.

If this car was a: weapon it would be a sawn-off Purdey. Impressive craftsmanship, repurposed for use by ruffians.

TESTED

Ford Focus RS, from £29,995

Engine: Turbocharged petrol 2.3-litre producing 345bhp, 324lb/ft (347lb/ft on transient overboost)

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 165mph, 0-62mph in 4.7 seconds

Fuel economy: 36.7mpg

Emissions: 175g/km of CO2

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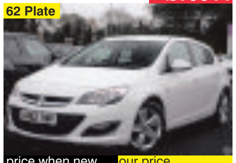
62 Plate



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63 Plate

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10 Plate

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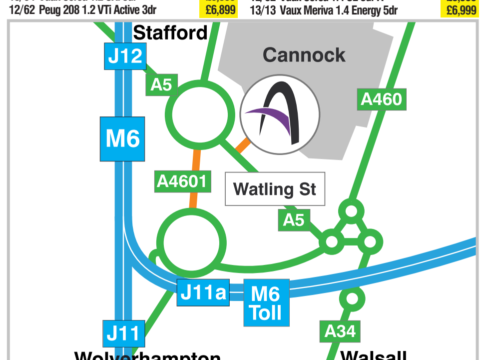

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, February 18, 2016

Supermini Civic range

The Honda Civic has come in for a much-needed once-over, getting restyling at the front and the rear, while the interior gets higher quality fitments and a 7-inch Honda Connect touch screen. There's a Sport trim level inserted into the range to bridge the gap to the turbocharged Type-R range-topper.

Let's make note that there are some things about the Civic that are really, really good. We don't think there's a better diesel in the whole supermini sector that the 120PS 1.6-litre diesel unit.

There's also an entry-level 1.4-litre petrol engine offered along with a 142PS 1.8-litre petrol powerplant. At the top of the range is the banzai Civic Type-R which features turbocharging for the very first time.

There have been a considerable number of exterior design tweaks to both the Civic hatch and Civic Tourer estate. In come revised headlight units with integrated daytime running lights and a more rakish front bumper assembly.

The Civic hatchback also features a slicker design for the rear bumper, side skirts, a rear spoiler finished in black, plus LED rear lamps. The Civic's 477-litre capacity remains the best in its segment.

The improved, smarter and more affordable Honda Civic might just be at its best in sleek Tourer guise. With a class-best 642 litres of luggage room with the rear seats in place and the cleverest seat folding system in the business, it's well worth a look.

The interior boot floor of the Civic Tourer has been raised compared to the hatchback to create a completely flat area when the seats are folded down. The rear seat cushions can also be flipped up to reveal ample floor space for carrying tall objects.

A 60:40 split in the seat base offers even more options for carrying both people and cargo and provides an alternative load area if access via the tailgate is limited. There is also a very handy hidden compartment perfect for storing the tonneau cover when it is not needed.

Furthermore, there is additional under floor storage in the boot which makes carrying tall objects in the boot easy, plus the height of the loading lip has been reduced by 137mm compared to the Civic hatchback. It's all been very well thought through, and it makes for an effective and desirable estate.

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High-riding Hyundai i20 has dash of trendiness

Hyundai's i20 Active model brings a dash of crossover trendiness to the i20 supermini range. Put simply, what we've got here is an i20 on stilts. Ride height had been increased, the seats are mounted higher inside and 50 per cent of the exterior has been changed in making this compact crossover. It also benefits from the latest 1.0 litre turbocharged engines to really take the fight to the Europeans.

Hyundai hasn't needed to do a vast amount in turning the i20 hatchback into the i20 Active.

Apart from jacking it up a little and adding some 4x4 inspired styling cues, it's much the same as before.

That isn't an issue however. There were plenty of reasons to recommend the i20 before and they're all still there in abundance.

The only difference is that those of you that like the idea of a crossover might be tempted if you weren't previously.

Handling

Hyundai worked hard to increase the rigidity of the second generation i20's bodyshell, helping ride, handling and safety.

To create the Active version, Hyundai has taken this shell and changed 50 per cent of the exterior body parts to create a much more rugged-looking vehicle.

There's an increase in ride height, different bumpers front and rear with integrated skid plates, plus round foglights at each end of the car.

In profile, you might notice the addition of side rubbing strips along the bottom of the doors, black plastic wheelarch extensions plus black plastic cladding of an interesting texture.

Inside you get higher mounted seats that hopefully won't reduce headroom too much but do promise improved ergonomics.

Finishing things off are a smart set of metal pedals and the option of 'Tangerine Orange' for elements of the interior.

It should be noted that the i20 is larger inside than many rivals and also offers an impressively big 326-litre boot, much bigger than the class average.

Overall, this Korean crossover is practical, well made, good value and very well equipped. Just as you would expect a Korean car to be.

TESTED

Hyundai i20 Active

Price: £16,000-£18,000 (estimated)

Insurance: TBC

CO2: For a 1.0 litre T-GDI 100PS,106g/km

Performance:For 1.0 litre T-GDI 100PS, 0-62mph 10.9s / max Speed 109mph

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Safety: Airbags, ABS, traction control, stability control

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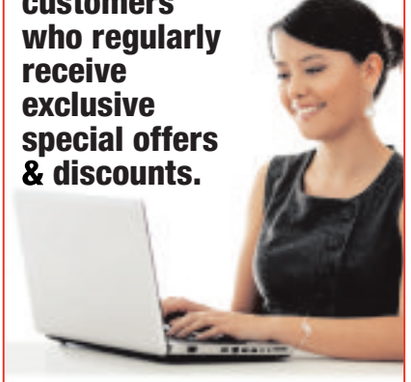

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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STABLES & FIELDSHELTERS & tackrooms. 01746 710610. www.elite-stables.co.uk

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
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Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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0121 502 5027.

vets

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd. CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BUSHBURY Large modern studio flats. Close to Mcdonalds drive through. DSS 35+ welcome. Low rent / deposits call 07791 476943

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overseas property

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FULL TIME CLASS 2 HGV DRIVER required for busy skip company. Call 01902 870 370.

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We are looking for a self-motivated sales person with a good friendly personality to work delivering hot / cold food to existing customers at their work places within our van sales team (Jiffy Trucks) this will include stock control / presentation / cleanliness and customer service.

Hourly pay plus commission.

Details to: **diane@skyline-catering.co.uk** or call **01902 402940** (We are a non smoking company)

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Write Box Number P20230 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

employment wanted

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full time - general

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To learn more about these vacancies please visit www.continuplus.org.uk or contact Mrs J Toyne on 01562 822463 and jet64@cpa.worcs.sch.uk

ContinU Plus Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing date: 26th February 2016

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The desirable candidate will have previous experience of working in a busy school, have a working knowledge of School Information Management Systems (SIMS) be highly organised and have a keen eye for detail. If you are an excellent administrator, have outstanding Microsoft Office skills, are flexible and willing to work and focus in a very busy environment, we would love to hear from you.

Visit our website www.wghs.org.uk for further information about the above post and the employment application form.

Closing date for applications: 12.00(noon) Monday, 22nd February 2016

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Network Packaging Limited is a leading packaging distributor and we are looking for an additional Key Accounts Administrator due to the continuing success and growth of the business.

The Prime objective for this person is to be a credible Internal sales contact, supporting and administrating Key account business activity through high levels of communication with customers, suppliers and within Network itself enabling a positive experience for the customer with the aim of being recognised as their best supplier.

This position will suit an ex-graduate, who may already have some customer service/commercial experience. Good & confident telephone manner with the ability to prioritise work will be key elements for the successful applicant along with a strong approach to teamwork. Tenacious, determined and a keen eye for detail are all essential traits needed for this position.

We offer a good salary package commensurate with age and experience.
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Key responsibilities will include:-
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- Welcoming visitors to the office
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Please send a copy of your CV with details of your current salary to: - Mrs H Dhaliwal Newell Palmer & Associates Ltd Cleveland Court, Cleveland Street Wolverhampton ,WV1 3HR Or alternatively please email the above information Harmesh.dhaliwal@newellpalmer.co.uk

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motor trade

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required for Brindley Kia & Hyundai Wolverhampton. We are looking for someone with experience in the supply of parts to trade and retail. You will be responsible for identifying and selling parts profitably, ensuring adherence to company policies and procedures, responding positively to the requests of the Parts Manager.

To apply please email your CV & covering letter to the Parts Manager **paula.brabbing@brindley.biz**

office & secretarial

LEGAL EXECUTIVE/CONVEYANCING ASSISTANT required for Wolverhampton Solicitors. Send CV to A.J. Woodhouse, Woodhouse & Company Solicitors, 22 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4BL.

nursing & carers

EXPERIENCED DEPUTY Manager required for small residential home in Penn. Also experienced Bank Care Assistants, day & night duty. Call Helen 07813 786407.

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part time - general

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Express & Star

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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CITROEN C1 VTR, 2009, 59k, 3 door, £20 road tax, red, economical, MoT, smashing car, £2,350 ono. 07791 808779.

CITROEN CACTUS FLARE diesel, 64 reg, 12,000 miles, purple, white, black, excellent condition, tax exempt, £9,800. 07914 510769.

CITROEN DS3 DESIGN 2014, 8,811 Miles, red/black, electric windows, fsh, alarm, metallic paint, cruise control, Alloys, Stereo, spare wheel. jack etc.lovely condition.j4 M5. **£5.950 ono 07976616911**

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 2014, 1,046 miles, blue, 998cc ecoboost, ac, fsh, bluetooth, one owner, excellent condition. £9,300 ono 07989 248021.

LEXUS 400h 2007, 62k, silver, automatic, Lexus FSH, MoT January 2017, immaculate condition. £12,000. 07906 724484.

MAZDA 5. 56 reg., silver, 10 months MoT, 7-seater, 76,000 miles. Immaculate conditon, £2,800. 01902 653907 or 07827 320179.

NISSAN PIXO, 2009, 73k, MoT, pas, a/c, 4 door, metallic grey/blue. Bargain £2,200 ono. Telephone 07989 893203.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRi, 06, petrol, manual, 7 seater, 5 dr, silver, 12 months MoT, 81,000 miles, FSH, good condition. **£2,250. 07957 226443.**

VW PASSAT Highline 2.0 TDi, blue, FSH, 58 reg, full leather, heated seats, Dab radio, great condition. £3,995 ono. 07734 441987.

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

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CITROEN PICASSO AUTO. 06, 65,000 miles, 12 months MoT, clean inside and out. £1,000. o.n.o. 07855 946489.

NISSAN ALMERA TINO, 2003, 99,000 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, £300. 07957 491522.

PEUGEOT 206, diesel, 1.4, 2002, good runner / condition. £30 per year road tax. £550. 07758 089629.

ROVER 75 Tourer, 03 reg, FSH, one owner from new, genuine 61,000 miles, immaculate condition. £1,295. 07956 670563.

SUZUKI VITARA 1600 GREEN. 1999. Hard top. 12 months MoT. 92,000 miles. £900. Telephone 07851 289020 after 4pm.

VAUXALL ASTRA CLUB 2000, 86,000 Miles, blue, 1600cc electric windows, MoT Aug,nice cond.2 owners.£500 ono 01785 714528

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7DTi-diesel, X reg, white, full MoT, owned last 8years, excellent condition, multifuction steering wheel, 136k radio/CD, fitted never used electric tow bar, cloth interior, clean, very reliable, **£600 ono. 07866 750420.**

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 2004, 78,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, CD. **£925. 01384 865045.**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 02, 3-dr, met green, MoT Aug, alloys wheels, good tyres, engine problem, hence £125 ono. 07766 272429.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2005, 77,000 Miles, silver, mot june 2016, 3 door£795 ono 07761532710

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2000, 113,000 miles, black, long MoT, sunroof. Many new parts, runs well but requires a little TLC to make into a lovely car. **£595 ono 01902 665840 or 07531 307480.**

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VAUXHALL VIVARO 2700CDTi SWB van, 60 plate, high mileage, FSH, MoT December. £3,250. 07948 309727.

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motorbikes

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highway-motorcycles.co.uk

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spares/parts

BATTERIES FROM £29.99: Corsa, Fiesta, Focus, Clio etc: 2 year guarantee - Wolves Hire - 01902 746723. Tettenhall Road WV6 0LE.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

DONALD BUCHANAN OSWALD (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Sunrise 73 Wergs Road Tettenhall Wolverhampton WV6 9BN, who died on 16/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW *T464058*

HILARY PATRICIA WOOD (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 136 Cornwall Road Tettenhall Wolverhampton West Midlands WV6 8UZ, who died on 21/10/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before two months from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: RTR/3707214P/Wood) *T461901*

JOAN MARGARET SAUNDERS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 31 Cornwall Road Wolverhampton West Midlands WV6 8XA, who died on 19/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 20/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: HMC/3745214P/Saunders) *T464197*

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
SANDY LANE, CODSALL
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on 16th February 2016, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Sandy Lane, Codsall from its junction with Gunstone Lane in a generally south-easterly direction for a distance of approximately 55 metres unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Sandy Lane, Church Lane, Church Road, Bakers Way, Wolverhampton Road, Elliotts Lane, Sandy Lane and vice versa.

The Order will come into operation on 25th February 2016, and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 6th March 2016.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the gas main replacement works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Ref: 29733; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000
http://roadworks.org

Date: 18th February 2016

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
BELL ROAD AND UNION LANE AND TRYSULL ROAD, TRYSULL
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in the following lengths of roads:

Bell Road, Trysull - From a point approximately 90 metres east of its junction with The Holloway, in a generally easterly direction to its junction with Union Lane

Union Lane, Trysull - From its junction with Bell Road in a generally north-easterly direction for a distance of approximately 375 metres

Trysull Road, Trysull – From its junction with Union Lane in a generally easterly direction for a distance of approximately 300 metres

unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Trysull Road, Bratch Common Road, Clap Gate Road, Pool House Road, B4176 Bridgnorth Road, Feiashill Road, School Road, Seisdon Road, The Holloway, Ebstree Road, Langley Road, Dimmingsdale Road, Penstone Lane, Blackpit Lane, Union Lane and vice versa.

The Order will come into operation on 7th March 2016, and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works (which will take place between the hours of 9:30 and 15:30), will be completed by on the same day.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the underground structure works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Ref: 29711; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000
http://roadworks.org

Date: 18th February 2016

10 Personals

general

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sports clubs

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personal

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Five-star Cons send title rivals a warning

CANNOCK Cons A moved into second place in the Aldridge & District Snooker League Premier Division in a three-way tussle for the title. They produced a five-star performance, whitewashing Q Bar A, sending out a title warning as they breathe down leaders' St John's neck.

Reigning champions Wednesfield Cons A, in third-placed, almost came a cropper at struggling Victoria A as they went 2-0 down. But Cons produced a superb comeback victory.

At the other end of the table bottom club Ogley Hay pulled off a shock 3-2 home victory against Golden Cue A.

In Division One, leaders Bentley Moor A remain on course for the title, winning 3-2 in a deciding frame match away at struggling Q Bar B. Bloxwich Memorial B now look most likely to get promoted after they saw off Landywood SC B 4-1 away.

Stafford Road B are seeing their season fall apart and were beaten 4-1 by Aldridge Cons C.

The semi-finals of the Masters (over 40) Championship took place at Stafford Road and Adrian Rosa (Lea Hall) prevailed over Mick Faulkner (St Johns) 3-1.

He will face Craig Meredith (Bloxwich Mem) in the final following his 3-0 win over Tony Davis (Wednesfield Cons).

Results: Aldridge Cons A 1 Landywood SC A 4; Bloxwich Memorial A 3 Stafford Road A 2; Cannock Cons B 5 Q Bar A 0; Fishley Park1 Pelsall Social A 4; Ogley Hay 3 Golden Cue A 2; Old Hall 1 Aldridge Cons B 4; Victoria A 2 Wednesfield Cons A 3

Division One: Athenaeum Club2 Golden Cue C 3; Essington WMC 2 Lichfield Road BC 3; Landywood SC B 1 Bloxwich Memorial B 4; Q Bar B 2 Bentley Moor A 3; Stafford Road B 1 Aldridge Cons C 4; Wednesfield Cons B 3 Amery 2; Bentley Moor B 3 Birchills 2; Norton Vic 4 Victoria B 1

Jackett 17th longest-serving boss

Wolves head coach Kenny Jackett

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett is now the 17th longest-serving boss at the current club – despite only just over two-and-a-half years at Molineux.

Two more Championship managers, Neil Redfern at Rotherham and Paul Clement at Derby, lost their jobs last week, meaning 13 clubs have changed their boss in 2015/16 already.

In the Championship, Jackett is the sixth-longest serving manager behind Karl Robinson (MK Dons), Steve Bruce (Hull City), Sean Dyche (Burnley), Mick McCarthy (Ipswich Town) and Simon Grayson (Preston North End).

The Wolves boss said: "It's the nature of the industry. That's the way it is for all of us in it.

"It's a privilege to be inside football. And it's hard to comment on situations at other clubs because you just don't know the insides and the relationships, so you keep your own counsel and look after your own club.

"I appreciate and understand that's the way the job is."

The average tenure of bosses, particularly in the Championship, tends to decrease year on year.

So how much time does Jackett believe a manager or head coach needs to really do the job justice and stamp their authority on a team?

"It very much depends on what you're taking over," he said. "If you go into a club and you've got a good team, you've got a better chance, obviously.

"I don't think there's a set time, it's an ongoing process of trying to improve, even if there's a dip for a period."

Hotshots clinch win in battle of the top two

THE top two in the West Midlands Snooker League Division One clashed and Hotshots SC clinched a 3-2 win over Sedgley Ex Service A.

In division two, Forty Four Club A defeated relegation threatened Shifnal B 3-2. Golden Cue D kept their division three title challenge on course, beating Wednesfield Cons C 4-1, while in division four, leaders Windsor Transport B beat Landywood SC C 3-2.

In division five, leaders Amery edged out Wolverhampton Electric D. In division six Pennfields D moved into contention with a 5-0 over Wednesfield RBL B.

Results: Division 1 Brandhall Labour B 2 Wednesfield Cons A 3; Golden Cue B 0 Brandhall Labour A 5; Hotshots SC 3 Sedgley Ex-Service A 2; Lea Hall Club 2 Sedgley WMC A 3; Sedgley WMC B 3 Golden Cue A 2; Shifnal WM A 2 Pennfields A 3; Stafford Institute A 1 Landywood SC A 4; Woodfield Social A 3 Dartmouth Central 2:

Division 2: Bloxwich Sports Club 4 Woodfield Social B 1; Fordhouses CC A 2 Wolverhampton Electric A 3; Forty Four Club A 3; Smethwick Labour 4 Golden Cue C 1; Bilston BC A 2 Goodyear 3:

Division 3: Bilston BC C 3 British Rail A 2; Codsall Firs A 2 Woodfield Social C 3; Sedgley Ex-Service B 4 Wednesfield Cons B 1; Victory Club 1 Sedgley WMC C 4; Wednesfield Cons C 1Golden Cue D 4; Willenhall Liberal A 3 Bilston BC B 2; Wolverhampton Electric B 2 Essington WMC A 3:

Division 4: Shepwell Green A 2 Wolverhampton Electric C 3; Wednesfield RBL A 1 Bushbury Grid A 4; ECC 1 Sedgley Ex-Service C 4; British Rail B 3 RAFA A 2; P.Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 2 Codsall Firs B 3; Sedgley Ex-Service D 3 Blymhill 2; Sedgley WMC D 2 Windsor Transport A 3; Windsor Transport B 3 Landywood SC C 2:

Division 5: British Rail C 3 Codsall Firs C 2; Bushbury Grid B 2 JD's SC 3; Essington WMC B 0 Golden Cue F 5; Triangle SC 2 Fordhouses CC B 3; Woodfield Social D 2 Oaklands BC 3; Golden Cue G 3 Pennfields C 2; Golden Cue H 4 Darlaston Cons A 1; Wolverhampton Electric D 2 Amery 3:

Division 6: Bilston S & S B 1 Fordhouses CC C 4; Darlaston Cons B 1 Essington WMC C 4; Golden Cue J 2 Shepwell Green B 3; RAFA B 4 Woodfield Social E 1; Codsall Firs D 1 Bushbury Grid C 4; Fordhouses CC D 3 Forty Four Club B 2; Pennfields D 5 Wednesfield RBL B 0; Wednesfield Cons D 0 Bentley Moor 5.

Talented teens in running for success

TBILISI and the European Youth Championships are very much on the mind of two of Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club's brightest prospects.

The July competition will bring together the cream of the crop from youth athletics on the continent, with Ellis Greatrex and Psalm Roberts-Nash ready to mix it with the best.

Greatrex, 16, from Willenhall, and Roberts-Nash, also 16, from Penn, are two of the country's top 400m specialists and began their 2016 campaign with a bang.

After Greatrex and Roberts-Nash claimed first and second respectively in January's Welsh under-20 Championships in Cardiff, the duo returned for the senior event – where they also cleaned up to claim the top two places.

Greatrex landed top spot with a time of 49.34 seconds while Roberts-Nash ran 49.73 in the final to take silver.

Achieve

Their coach at the Aldersley Stadium, Claudio Albanese, insists that the youngsters have their mind very much switched on ahead of a shot at the showpiece in Georgia.

"Ellis has run his personal best of 48.47 this season and he needs to record under 48.30 for a place in Tbilisi," Albanese said.

"The cut-off point is the end of June so we're not worried about it, there's plenty of time.

"He should be able to achieve it outdoors, we'll get the indoor stuff out of the way and then see how they get on."

On Roberts-Nash, who finished 0.39 of a second behind his team-mate in the senior 400m final in Cardiff and has previously clocked 48.81, the coach added: "We've spoken with Psalm and how he needs to attack the races.

"He knows what he needs and has run faster indoor times already.

"I'm quite confident that both of them will make it."

The pair are relatively new to the sport after only three years in the traps and their coach reiterated just how impressed he has been with their improving performances and potential ability to compete on the European stage.

The pair, alongside several other members of the Wolverhampton & Bilston club, struck stand-out success last summer when they took an impressive first and second in the English Schools' Championships in Gateshead.

"It's a massive step for these guys," the coach said. "They only started running three years ago and to achieve what they've done already is great.

"We've been talking about Tbilisi since last October."

Roberts-Nash is running in the England age group Championships in Sheffield, while Greatrex is away with the Thomas Telford school.

The Midland Championships in Nuneaton, held in June, and the England Outdoor Championships in Bedford will both be targeted by the pair, who will also compete at various league meetings for the club.

Medal Winners - Psalm Roberts-Nash and Ellis Greatrex finished second and first in the 400m finals

Elwiss stars with first 50 as England win

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Georgia Elwiss starred as England women secured an impressive 2-1 ODI Tour win in South Africa.

The 24-year-old struck an impressive 61 from 67 balls – her maiden half-century – as she and Heather Knight pitched in with a match-winning fifth wicket partnership of 97.

Anya Shrubsole took 3-35 as the Proteas were restricted to 196-9 at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

England had taken a 1-0 series lead in Benoni by seven wickets but the hosts took the second in Centurion.

Elwiss, formerly of Wolverhampton Cricket Club and now with Surrey, was not involved in either of the opening two clashes, making her tour debut in the decider.

England's women next head to Cape Town for back-to-back T20 internationals today (Thursday) and tomorrow, finishing the tour with the final T20 in Johannesburg on Sunday.

Chasetown edge ahead to net victory

IT was end-to-end action in the Wolverhampton City Netball league as Chasetown Mix and Whitmore X came together in their Division 1 fixture, Chasetown just edging ahead to take the glory.

Sapphets maintained their lead against Phoenix, winning by just two goals.

Phoenix Hornets held off a strong Lucas side, to ensure their promotion to Division 1 next winter season. Dolls 1 and Ladybirds couldn't be separated and had to settle for a share of the points.

Stourbridge Jets Black in Division 4 notched up the goals against Sedgley Sirens to stay top. Flames beat Amec Ladies to secure runners up spot.

Results: Div 1: Chasetown Mix 26 Whitmore X 25; Sapphets 23Phoenix 21; Sam 2 24 Whitmore Y 19; Crescent 11 Sam 3 37. Div 2: Dolls 1 20 Ladybirds 20; Phoenix Hornets 30 Lucas 26; Div 3: Jupiter 15 Blaze 19; Eurostars 25 Libra Lea Navy 17; Wordsley Storks 16 Cresta 22; Whitmore Z 26 Whitmore J 25.Div 4: Flames 32 Amec Ladies 21; Phoenix Scorpions 16 Inspire 21; Lunes 19 Oddessy 30; Sedgley Sirens 21 Stourbridge Jets Black 43. Div 5: Allsortz 14 Breezers 24; Diamonds 30 Sam 5 19; Zimmers 26 Thundercats 20; Stourbridge Jets Blue 23 Whitmore B 11.

Win boosts Old Wulfs' survival bid

Old Wulfs 3
King's Heath Pickwick 0

OLD Wulfs dominated this must-win game and resurrected their hopes of survival in the West Midlands Premier hockey league.

George Jandu narrowly missed on the volley before Mike Birch opened the scoring when his cross-cum-shot bobbled off a defender's stick into the goal.

Wulfs went two up thanks to the goal of the game. Peters and Ablard shared one-twos before Ablard drew the keeper and fed Peters who was faced with an empty net. The points were sealed when hard-working Griffiths slotted home a neat penalty corner routine.

Also Old Wulfrunians u14 were crowned champions in the England Hockey Development league.d

Women sent packing in county cup

Wolves Women 0 Coventry United Ladies 4

Wolves Women

WOLVES Women were well beaten by Coventry United Ladies in the quarter finals of the Birmingham County FA Cup.

Wolves, playing their first match for three weeks after bad weather forced two games to be called off, came undone in a second half which saw United take control.

Coventry United, previously Coventry City Ladies before their 94-year association with the Sky Blues ended last year, called Wolves into action early on when Alison Hall worked her way onto Amber Hughes' chipped delivery but goalkeeper Lucy Gardner easily collected the ball.

Hughes then got the better of Jen Anslow, who had dropped deep, and delivered a ball into Marie Gauntlett, but her drilled low effort was caught by Gardner.

After a pinpoint Hughes cross, Wolves captain Anna Perks put in a superb challenge at the far post to keep the game goalless.

Coventry were almost rewarded with the game's opener when Anna Wilcox crossed to Hughes who unleashed a shot from the 18-yard line, but her effort went inches wide. Wolves' first chance came on the half-hour mark when Kimberley Holden drove from 25-yards out but Hattie James could not latch onto her off-target shot.

The visitors took the lead just before half time on a freezing cold afternoon at Keys Park, when Gardner palmed away a deep free kick and Cristina Torkildsen was on hand to neatly tap in from close range at the far post.

Coventry came out strong after the break and almost enjoyed the perfect start to the second half when Gauntlett set up Dermody but she volleyed wide of the post.

Hall doubled the visitors' lead when she latched onto a whipped ball into the box by Nikki Miles and made no mistake from close range.

It went from bad to worse for Wolves moments later as the hosts were caught out at the back and Dermody was allowed through to scramble home almost level with the goalline.

Coventry United, who currently lie in fourth place in the FA Women's Premier League Southern Division table, extended their lead when Hughes laid the ball onto Sammi Ryder in the middle of the box and she tapped in from just a few yards out.

James could have set up a late Wolves consolation from the tightest of angles, but her lobbed shot from distance was caught by Coventry goalkeeper Susan Wood.

Wolves Women manager Steve Cullis said: "It's a disappointing result – Coventry United played well and deserved it.

"For me there's a lot more positives out of the game than what people might think.

"The players, credit to them, gave it their all until the end.

"If you look at our back four, they have been pretty consistent throughout the season but it's just one of those days where Coventry were better across the pitch overall.

"As a collective and as a group we did not do enough. I am disappointed but I am not going to be blaming any player, we just weren't good enough.

"The big thing for me was the speed at which Coventry played.

"Having quite a stop-start season has not helped and going into the game with that mantra was difficult."

Pottinger looks for flying start from Heathens

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger has called on his side to lay down a marker early in their 2016 National League speedway campaign.

The Heathens kick-off their season with a double header against Belle Vue on Easter Monday, March 28, firstly away and then at Monmore from 7.30pm.

They will also face local rivals Birmingham at Perry Barr on April 20.

With a return to a play-off system next season, Pottinger knows a fast start is not imperative.

But he is keen to build some momentum early on.

"We are excited to get started," Pottinger said. "With the return to the play-offs it maybe isn't as important to get off to a good start. But we are desperate to hit the ground running."

Downing is appointed as England u-20s boss

FORMER Wolves player and ex-Albion coach Keith Downing has been appointed the new manager of England Under-20s.

The Oldbury-born 50-year-old has been in interim control since July 2015, but will take full-time charge of the Three Lions age group side for the first time against Ghana at Doncaster Rovers' Keepmoat Stadium on Sunday, March 27.

Downing, who had a spell as caretaker manager at The Hawthorns in the 2013/14 season, enjoyed wins over the Czech Republic, Holland and Turkey last year. He said: "We've enjoyed our time together so far and I'm really looking forward to continuing working with the players.

"We've got a good blend of experience in the squad and the under-20s set-up is an age group that has only been represented by England for a couple of years now, so it gives the players that have come late into the system that opportunity to experience what it takes to play for their country."

After his playing career, Downing started his managerial career at Cheltenham Town during 2007/08.

He joined the Baggies in 2009 as academy coach before working as joint-assistant head coach under Roy Hodgson and Steve Clarke, and then as first-team caretaker manager in 2013/14.

Matt Crocker, head of development team coaching, said: "In his time as interim coach for us, we've seen the players produce many of the key strands that are embedded into our style of play, as part of the England DNA philosophy."

Darters hot on heels of leaders

JUST six points separate the West Midlands from the top of the BDO British Inter-Counties Championship Division Two after victory away to Suffolk.

The second-placed county darters are hot on the heels of leaders London after an emphatic win on the road.

Their four teams all left unbeaten as they eased to a 25-14 success, making it four victories out of five so far this season.

The only clash in which they were held was the ladies B affairs, where the two sides played out a 3-3 draw.

Shellbie Simmons scored the visitors' best average, with 18.89 to roll over Leesa Wollard 3-1. Suffolk's Barbara Chenery had 16.98 to beat Jacqueline Maiden (17.21) by the same verdict.

The West Midlands got on top with the men's B proceedings, prevailing 8-4 to take a match lead. Scott Baker romped to a 3-0 whitewash with 28.36 over Jamie Collins (18.96) along the way.

Stuart Greenlaugh's 24.41 for Suffolk was only enough to lose 3-2 to John Morris (26.45), while the hosts' John Attwater notched 23.48 for a 3-0 shut-out over Mick Hoult (18.62).

Coming out on top 4-2 in the women's A proceedings left the West Midlands 15-9 up going into the men's finale.

Sarah Roberts racked up 21.13 for a 3-1 result over Chrissy Stubbings (17.61), while Jo Locke (18.30) replied to beat Debbie Loon (17.77) by the same scoreline.

Suffolk's men's A line-up made a fist of their clashes before going down 7-5.

Two-time BDO World Championship semi-finalist Chris Mason, now of Hednesford, got them over the line with 26.38 to see off David Ballard-Flatt (27.40) in the last leg.

Victory went to the away ranks 18-14, with three extra points for the winning county. They next host Northamptonshire, at Gilberts Bar in Willenhall, on the weekend commencing March 5.

Khalsa are left blue by sight of goal ace Demidh

Sporting Khalsa 1 Heanor 3

KHALSA will be thoroughly sick of the sight of explosive forward Karl Demidh after he grabbed a brace for the visitors, the sixth and seventh goals he has scored against Khalsa this season.

Having netted five in two games for Rocester against Ian Rowe's men, two excellent poacher's efforts on 39 and 41 minutes did the damage here.

Heanor might have had a penalty in the first couple of minutes, Mark Smith having his heels clipped by Joe Rogers, but the appeals were to no avail.

Brad Lawley shot inches over from long range on 20 minutes and four minutes later Dave Meese curled an effort past Heanor keeper Joe McCormack which hit the crossbar.

Demidh then did his work in two devastating minutes which left Khalsa rocking on half time.

To compound the agony, Demidh then turned provider, taking the corner that saw Joe Smith head home in style.

Bannister pulled one back for Khalsa on 68 minutes, a beauty of a chip from the edge of the area.

But while Khalsa continued to push, Heanor were always dangerous on the break.

Smith headed over on 73 minutes and at the other end McCormack saved well from Marvin Nisbett's swerving shot.

Pemberton denied Demidh a hat-trick he richly deserved on 81 minutes before debutant Marvin Robinson put an overhead kick just wide on 85 minutes.

Heanor strengthen their grip on second place while Khalsa drop to fifth.

Goal to reap reward as talented duo sign

KENNY Jackett knows he has two hugely-talented players at his disposal. Now he wants Jordan Graham and Kortney Hause to reward his faith in them.

Jackett hopes the backing they've given to the players, who have both penned new long-term deals with the club, they'll repay with hard work.

Graham and Hause became the eighth and ninth players signed to new contracts this season. Nouha Dicko, Dominic Iorfa, David Edwards, James Henry, Matt Doherty, Jack Price and Kevin McDonald preceded the pair, and Jackett said the deals underpinned the long-term work going on at Wolves.

"We wanted to show some faith in them and recognise what they've done, in a very competitive market," he said. "It underpins the work we do. General consistent progression of the players we have is a way of doing it."

Graham is out until next year with a cruciate ligament injury. But the new deal reflects the impression he made in his 12 Wolves appearances to date.

Impact

"The understanding when he came in was that he'd have to work his way towards the first team. He did that, I thought he made a really good impact. There's plenty of players who've got over this injury and gone on to have very long and successful careers, particularly at a young age."

Of Hause, the Wolves boss said: "I think he's played well, he has the physical attributes, it's hard to find left-footed defenders.

"He's shown a lot of promise in the Championship for such a young man, and should be able to build on what he's done."

Premier League clubs are believed to have shown interest in the pair, who are both aged 20.

Recruitment chief Kevin Thelwell suggested that was a factor in the club pinning them down to new deals – and predicted Graham would have joined Hause in the England Under-21 squad were it not for his injury.

Thelwell added: "Their performances will have attracted interest and this is a clear statement of intent from the football club and a clear statement of intent by the players."

No mistake this time from Tuqir

Tuqir celebrates with his team after claiming the England Youth championship

BOXER Akash Tuqir made sure he wasn't a five-time finalist after finally claiming a national club title in the England Youth Championships.

On four occasions the reigning European champion has had to settle for second place at the top table of domestic action.

But this time there was no stopping the 17-year-old, who represents Merridale Boxing Club, as he made no mistake in his second Youth final. The southpaw is now the best Youth fighter in England and Europe at 52kg and will defend his Euro crown in Lithuania next month.

He is now targeting a clean sweep of honours before stepping up to the seniors next year. He turns 18 on May 6.

Tuqir took his place for finals weekend at the Magna Centre in Rotherham as one of eight flyweight entrants. He took out his first rival, Connor Adaway, from Plympton, Devon, by third round stoppage on Friday evening.

On Saturday he went the distance in tough semi-final against Edward Barrett, who boxes out of Hooks in London. And he exorcised his demons on Sunday, outpointing Muavi Nasim from Queensway, Rochdale.

Town recover to edge thriller over Casuals

Cradley 3 Wolves Casuals 2

CRADLEY Town came back from a 2-1 deficit to edge this five-goal West Midlands League Premier thriller at home to Wolverhampton Casuals.

The hosts grabbed a second-minute goal in the topsy-turvy clash when Jovan Blake-Walker beat Casuals keeper James Scarratt with a shot on the turn from 20 yards.

Five minutes later Liam Hughes equalised for Casuals when he floated an 18-yard effort over Cradley keeper Shaun Edwards.

Casuals took control as Danny Cresswell netted at the far post from a corner after 56 minutes to go in front.

But the hosts recovered as substitute Charlie Gregg levelled with a good finish in the 71st minute. A minute later Oliver Oatley bagged the winner.

Jack's the lad for GB judo Paralympic call

A UNIVERSITY of Wolverhampton student will be part of the ParalympicsGB judo team for Rio 2016.

Jack Hodgson has been named as part of the British Judoka that will compete at the games in Brazil in September.

Hodgson, from Gainsborough, is a first year BSc Sports Coaching student based at the University's Walsall Campus, where he is also part of the British Judo Centre of Excellence.

The 19-year-old suffers from a rare genetic disorder called Ushers Syndrome, which has resulted in him being profoundly deaf and having a degenerative eye condition.

He competes in the plus 100kg category and said: "I'm incredibly proud to be selected to ParalympicsGB for Rio 2016. My ambition is to win a medal."

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Williamson could return to the fold

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett is looking forward to welcoming Mike Williamson back into the fold, saying the 32-year-old's experience could make a big difference in the last third of the season.

Jackett's team have shipped 42 goals this season, the eighth-worst record in the league. But it is at Molineux where their defensive woes have been most keenly felt. In 16 matches they've let in 23 goals – with only Fulham and Bristol City conceding more at home.

Jackett though will soon have senior defensive options at his disposal, with Williamson and Kortney Hause both returning from hamstring injuries.

Of late he has only had young French left-back Sylvain Deslandes as a defensive-back-up, following the sale of Scott Golbourne to Bristol City.

Williamson was due back in training this week and Jackett will hope to give the experienced defender his second Wolves debut away at Huddersfield this Saturday. He said: "I do feel you do need one or two older players and experienced players, and Williamson comes into that category.

"Certainly in that position he can manage games, help you get over the line and be thinking on his feet during games rather than assessing it afterwards.

"He's calm on the ball and I want to continue to improve our possession play and our distribution from defensive positions."

In the absence of Williamson and Hause, Ethan Ebanks-Landell has enjoyed his longest consecutive run of Wolves games in his career.

The Smethwick-born 23-year-old has featured in the last 14 matches in all competitions, starting with the 2-1 win at Rotherham on December 5 and Jackett feels the defender has benefited from that run.

Batth: We will do everything we can to salvage season

WOLVES captain Danny Batth says he and his team-mates are leaving no stone unturned as they bid to salvage their season.

The skipper insists confidence in the squad isn't a problem, and that they maintain their pride and passion in playing for the club. Wolves crashed to a 2-1 home defeat to Preston as they continue to be marooned in mid-table.

Batth said the players wouldn't be feeling sorry for themselves and added: "We 1,000 per cent care as much as the fans. The lads are out there working hard in training, leaving no stone unturned, making sure we're as well drilled as we can be.

"It's a hard-working group. We're not playing without the passion or desire that the fans warrant. I appreciate the fans' concerns. Us on the pitch have to take responsibility and make sure we give them something to be proud of."

Kenny Jackett's team have won just four matches at Molineux this season. Batth said: "We've struggled at times at Molineux this season but we'll work on that."

Euro ambitions scuppered signings

Nicolai Boilesen

WOLVES agreed deals to buy two international left-backs in January – but both players were unwilling to move to the Championship.

Recruitment boss Kevin Thelwell said deals were in place to first sign Switzerland defender Francois Moubandje, of Toulouse, and then Ajax's Danish international Nicolai Boilesen.

A third unnamed player was also closely looked at, and Thelwell said that deal may be revived in the summer.

On 25-year-old Toulouse man Moubandje, Thelwell said: "The deal was done with the player and the football club, but then he got cold feet on the fact we were a 'division two' club in his eyes, and therefore he thought he might jeopardise his European Championship place.

"He spoke to the national team coach who basically said, that's going to be a problem for me if you decide to go a level down.

"Nicolai Boilesen, we spoke to his representatives who came and visited the club, but again for similar reasons decided to hang out until the end of the season."

Thelwell added: "It really came down to, can we sign the right calibre of player?"

Francois Moubandje

NO LOVE LOST AS FANS REBEL

Wolves 1 Preston North End 2

THERE is deep frustration and disenchantment with Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, of that there is no doubt.

A season that promised so much was rendered all-but over before Valentine's Day, *writes Tim Spiers.*

And there was certainly no love for Kenny Jackett, Steve Morgan or Jez Moxey, with the trio feeling the heat from the stands on a bitterly cold Molineux afternoon.

Wolves are 11 points off the top six. And 14 off the relegation zone. They're in limbo, on and off the field. Although watching them at the moment feels more like purgatory. And it's the supporters who are paying for the sins of those that run Wolverhampton Wanderers.

There was so much to be dissatisfied about here. The limp, reactive performance. The lack of a coherent gameplan. The dull football that saw just two shots aimed at Anders Lindegaard's goal.

Benched

The baffingly high number of players who performed nowhere near what they are capable of. And the lack of a £3m striker in the starting XI.

At Reading, a more defensive set-up served its purpose. But to leave Mason out again made little sense. Jackett seems almost to be making a point to those above him that he wanted Mason to be the first of two strikers to join last month.

Well that second striker wasn't forthcoming. And Jackett, as a result, looks tactically lost.

Shorn of Jordan Graham, Michal Zyro and David Edwards, and with James Henry off injured, Rajiv van La Parra back to his anonymous worst and Kevin McDonald surprisingly benched, there was next to no creativity in this team.

The fans voiced their frustration, levelling it chiefly at Moxey. The embattled chief executive suits the pantomime villain role, but although he is partly culpable, that ire is misdirected.

Everything that happens at this football club comes from directives set by Steve Morgan. But this cannot go on. Three more months of this will destroy all of the good work that's gone to reconnect the club with its long-suffering fans in the past two years, if it isn't too late already.

Substitute Joe Mason gets a goal back for Wolves, but it was only a brief moment of cheer

Cost of 'early bird' tickets are frozen

WOLVES have frozen 'early bird' season ticket prices for next season – and reduced costs for children.

Despite uncertainty over finances with owner Steve Morgan putting the club up for sale – and the loss of Premier League 'parachute payments' next year – no prices have increased.

Some adults tickets work out as £15 per game if Wolves are still in the Championship in 2016/17. Prices for under-12s have been reduced in most stands. And a new direct debit option also works out cheaper for fans, being spread over 10-months.

The cheapest tickets are behind the goals in the Stan Cullis stand and Sir Jack Hayward stand at £345 plus a £6 booking fee.

Tickets in the Billy Wright Upper are £46 cheaper compared with last summer's standard prices. Under-12 prices have been reduced in the Sir Jack Hayward, Stan Cullis and Billy Wright Upper Stands to £3.48 per league game (£80 for the league season).

I understand anger of the fans – Kenny

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett says he understands the anger and frustration of the club's fans after his team failed yet again to perform at home.

A 2-1 defeat at home to Preston North End left Wolves' play-off hopes surely in tatters. They've won just four home games this season, are 11 points off the top six, and 14 above the relegation zone, with the campaign threatening to disintegrate in mid-February.

And the supporters loudly voiced their opinions, through a cacophony of boos at full time and also anti-Jez Moxey and Steve Morgan chants, as well as cries of 'you don't know what you're doing' towards Jackett when he brought Tommy Rowe on in the final minutes.

Jackett said: "There's a lot of anger out there. There's frustration, I understand that. We're looking, all of us, for good performances and wins. I need to produce results.

"When we're poor and losing, crowds are critical, we have to take that and accept it. We need to put in improved results. That's the thing that will get people behind you. The players are desperate to win.

"Losing players to injury doesn't help with the flow of the team. The goals against column at home is very high. It's the eighth time out of 16 we've conceded two or more."

Wolves travel to Huddersfield, on Saturday, followed by another away game at Brentford next Tuesday. Promotion-chasing Derby (home) and Middlesbrough (away) complete a testing four-game run.

New £3m striker Joe Mason was again left out of the starting XI, coming on to score Wolves' consolation goal with his second strike in two appearances since moving from Cardiff.

Henry hamstrung as latest injury victim

WOLVES winger James Henry will be out of action for three weeks with a hamstring injury, it has been revealed.

Henry limped off in the early stages of Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Preston at Molineux. The 26-year-old underwent scans on the injury which revealed he has suffered a grade one hamstring strain, with his absence expected to be three weeks.

That timescale would rule him out of Wolves' next four matches, against Huddersfield Town, Brentford, Derby County and Middlesbrough. And it comes at the worst possible time for Kenny Jackett, who was without seven first-team players for the Preston loss.

★★★

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